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Japan

IAEA Asks Measurement of Unaccounted Plutonium

OW0905131894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—The United Nations atomic watchdog has asked the Japanese Government to reconfirm the amount of plutonium held up in processing equipment of a Japanese nuclear fuel fabrication plant after learning the amount was unexpectedly high, sources said Monday [9 May].

The sources said a massive 70 kilograms of plutonium was held up at the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. facility in Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, over the past five and a half years since the plant started operations. The fact has alerted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since such a large amount of plutonium held up in the plant could hamper effective application of safeguards against unauthorized diversions of plutonium, the sources said.

A corporation spokesman stressed, however, that employees at the facility have confirmed the existence of the plutonium through measurements done with special equipment and denied the plutonium in question is unaccounted for. But the sources said the IAEA is concerned that any discrepancy in calculations could compromise its purpose as a body established to regulate the use of nuclear fuel and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

The facility, which began operations in October, 1988, supplies fuel to the fast breeder reactor Monju on the Sea of Japan coast in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture.

Sources within the nuclear power industry said that in April, the IAEA requested that the government confirm whether the amount of plutonium held up in the plant actually matched the corporation's own measurement.

Equipment to monitor plutonium amounts in the facility was jointly developed by the corporation and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the U.S. state of New Mexico.

A measurement by the equipment is believed to have a margin of error of 5-10 percent, which means that if the amount of held-up plutonium is as much as 70 kilograms, enough plutonium to make an atomic bomb could easily escape detection.

Paul Leventhal, president of the nongovernmental Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute said 70 kilograms is more than the amount of plutonium North Korea is alleged to have secretly diverted from its own nuclear facilities. Leventhal said there is no proof Japan is diverting plutonium for a weapons program, but called on the IAEA to closely regulate the Japanese facility to ensure fair treatment for all countries using nuclear power.

In a letter dated May 4 to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Leventhal calls for the shutting down of the facility.

Leventhal told Christopher the 70 kilograms, about 10 percent of the annual plutonium output at the plant, is "an astounding figure."

"Under the circumstances, Japan should be prepared voluntarily to suspend operation of the plant in the interest of its often-stated commitment to the complete transparency of the peaceful nature of its plutonium program," Leventhal wrote.

A spokesman for the Science and Technology Agency's safeguards division said the IAEA and the government gauge the amount of plutonium held up in the plant once every month, and added it is impossible to divert the plutonium from the facility.

Trade Minister Promises Reply to U.S. Demands

OW0605172594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1536 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Warsaw, May 6 KYODO—Japan will soon reply to U.S. demands for further proposals to reduce its heavy trade surplus, Japan's trade minister promised U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown in a meeting in Warsaw on Friday [6 May].

Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Eijiro Hata and Brown had a brief talk while they were here for a meeting of economic, industry and trade ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized states and 10 former East Bloc nations.

Brown expressed a wish to reach a common understanding with Japan on the three points raised by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech last month—that Japan take steps on both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels and set "objective criteria" to reduce its trade surplus, Japanese officials said.

Such an understanding is a prerequisite to the resumption of talks with Japan on a new bilateral trade framework, the U.S. secretary said, according to the officials.

Hata replied that he understands the importance of the three points and Japan wishes to see the issue settled in a way that would not lead to "managed trade," the officials said.

The Japanese minister indicated that efforts will be made to resume the trade framework talks ahead of an upcoming summit meeting of the G-7 countries in Naples, Italy, in July.

In a separate meeting with Russian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Shokhin the same day, Hata said Japan will continue support for Russia in its efforts for reform.

Saito: Resumption of Trade Talks Still Unclear

OW0905085694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Japan has not yet made any breakthrough with the United States to reopen the stalled "framework" trade talks, a senior Finance Ministry official said Monday [9 May].

"Foreign Ministry officials are seeking possibilities through various channels, but there seems to be no clear direction yet," Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito told a regular news conference. But he reiterated that substantial progress has been made in insurance which his ministry is in charge of negotiating among the three priority areas under the framework talks.

Other areas are automobiles and auto parts, and government procurement of medical and telecommunications equipment.

In a related development, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa may visit the United States in late May or early June for talks with U.S. officials on ways to resume the framework talks.

"I hope that working-level talks will be resumed by the Middle of this month," the official, who declined to be named, told reporters.

The official said Kakizawa hopes to meet with U.S. leaders to discuss other delicate issues such as the suspected nuclear weapons development program by North Korea.

The official also said Kakizawa is likely to meet U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Paris when they attend a ministerial session of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) opening June 7.

'Nothing' Decided About Framework Schedule

OW0905064994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Nothing specific has been decided between Japan and the United States on ways to resume the stalled trade "framework" talks, a senior ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said Monday [9 May].

But Tokyo will use "every level of communication tools" to break the impasse over the bilateral trade talks, Hideaki Kumano, vice MITI minister, told a press conference.

Kumano said Tokyo and Washington have yet to fix a timetable and other details for an early resumption of the deadlocked framework negotiations.

Kumano denied speculation that vice MITI minister for international affairs Sozaburo Okamatsu, the chief Japanese trade negotiator for the framework talks, will meet high-ranking U.S. trade officials during his ongoing visit to the U.S.

Okamatsu is in the U.S. only to deliver a speech at a Chicago college, and will return home Thursday, Kumano said.

Hata , Brown Agree To 'Do Utmost' for Talks

OW0905024894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Trade Minister Eijiro Hata said Monday [9 May] he and U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown have agreed to do their utmost for an early reopening of the stalled trade "framework" talks. The accord was reached when Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Hata met with Brown during an east-west conference of trade ministers that was held in Warsaw for two days until Saturday.

Hata told a news conference that he and Brown shared the view that an early resumption of the framework talks would meet expectations not only of both countries but of the global community. But he said he has clarified anew to Brown Tokyo's stance against numerical targets as a tool to measure foreign access to Japanese markets.

Hata said the meeting with Brown did not touch on specifics of three U.S. demands presented to Tokyo earlier as conditions to resume the framework talks. But both parties agreed that accords on the conditions should be struck before the July summit of the seven leading economic powers in Naples, Hata said.

During the April meeting between then Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, now prime minister, and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, Washington demanded that Japan offer new proposals on a macroeconomic policy, overall goals of the framework talks and "objective criteria" to gauge openness of Japan's markets.

On the recent controversial remarks by former Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano over the 1937 Nanjing massacre, the trade minister said the cabinet of Prime Minister Hata has been "damaged greatly."

Japan should "deepen its regret" over wartime conducts toward the next year's 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Hata said.

Nagano said in an interview with a newspaper that the Nanjing massacre was a fabrication, a remark sparking global criticism and forcing his resignation as justice minister.

Ozawa Reportedly Makes Secret Visit to Russia

OW0605193394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1553 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 6 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, Japan's behind-the-scenes power broker, clandestinely paid a three-day visit to Moscow without detection by the mass media, a Japanese diplomatic source said Friday.

The source told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the embassy has not confirmed any contacts between Ozawa and Russian politicians at least during the day but said he is unsure whether they were made at night. "Only his wife (Kazuko) and bodyguard accompanied him," he said. "The embassy was told that he came here to investigate the political and economic situation."

"However, in actuality, he appears to have come here for the sake of sightseeing and to take a rest," he said.

Ozawa is secretary general of Shinseito and the arch ally of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata. He is credited with playing a key part in sweeping Hata to power.

In March 1991, Ozawa, then secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, flew to Moscow for talks with then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on such issues as the dispute on the sovereignty over four Russian-held islands off Japan's northern shore.

Foreign Ministry Advises Japanese Leave Yemen

OW0905102694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry said Monday [9 May] that it has advised 92 Japanese in Yemen to leave immediately as hostilities continued to grow between rival northern and southern army units.

Japan is trying to have the Japanese evacuated on the seagoing vessels or emergency aircraft of other nations, government sources said.

On Saturday, the Japanese Embassy in Sanna urged Japanese residents and tourists to evacuate the Yemeni capital.

A total of 84 Japanese, including embassy related personnel, are reportedly in Sanna with five Japanese in the old northern city of Mafraq and another three in the old southern capital of Aden.

Cambodia's Hun Sen Arrives in Tokyo 9 May

OW0905042194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Cambodia's second Prime Minister Hun Sen arrived in Japan on Monday [9 May] for an unofficial visit.

Hun Sen is in Japan to attend a council meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday of the Socialist International. Organizers of the meeting said he is expected to leave on Wednesday.

Hun Sen, 43, is vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and serves as co-premier of Cambodia's coalition government along with first Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh of the royalist party FUNCINPEC.

He is visiting Tokyo at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Hun Sen was last in Japan in March for the International Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC).

Foreign Ministry officials were unable to confirm if a meeting will be arranged between Hun Sen and Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata.

FY 1993 Current Surplus Hits Record High

OW0905070894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus for fiscal 1993 rose an unadjusted 3.3 percent from the previous year to hit a record for the second consecutive year, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report Monday [9 May].

The politically sensitive surplus that represents trade in goods and services totaled 130.04 billion dollars, the ministry said. But for the latest reporting month of March alone, the unadjusted current account gap fell 16.1 percent from a year-earlier level to 15.76 billion dollars, underscoring the recent downward trend.

The fiscal 1993 unadjusted trade surplus—the major component—on a contract settlement basis increased 4.9 percent to 142.80 billion dollars, with exports gaining 6.1 percent to 356.00 billion dollars and imports rising 6.9 percent to 213.20 billion dollars, the ministry said.

The March contract-settled trade surplus fell 0.7 percent to 15.22 billion dollars, with exports gaining 5.3 percent to 35.61 billion dollars and imports climbing 10.3 percent to 20.39 billion dollars.

'Seems To Be Nearing a Peak'

OW0905093594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Japan's surplus in trade and services edged up 3.3 percent in fiscal 1993 to its second straight record but seems to be nearing a peak, the Finance Ministry said Monday [9 May].

The politically sensitive current account surplus, measuring goods, services and some unilateral transfers like grant aid, hit 130.04 billion dollars before adjustment for seasonal factors in the year ended in March, the ministry said in a preliminary report.

In yen terms, the surplus receded for the first time in three years and within the current account, the trade surplus shrank in volume terms, a ministry official said.

"It seems to [be] peaking out" in dollar terms as well, he said, although the critical dollar-denominated figure is at the mercy of such variables as exchange rates and oil prices.

The surplus grew in dollar terms during the first two quarters of the fiscal year from year-earlier levels, then shrank in the second two quarters, the official said.

The fiscal 1993 trade surplus rose 4.9 percent on a balance-of-payments basis to 142.80 billion dollars. Imports, growing 6.9 percent to 213.20 billion dollars, outstripped the growth of exports, which were up 6.1 percent to 356.00 billion dollars.

For March alone, the current account surplus fell 16.1 percent from the same month a year before to 15.76 billion dollars, although the official said monthly figures are too volatile to set a trend.

The March trade surplus fell 0.7 percent from a year before to 15.22 billion dollars, with imports up 10.3 percent to 20.40 billion dollars and exports up 5.3 percent to 35.61 billion dollars.

Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Center, agreed that Japan's towering current account surplus has peaked. "It will fall in this fiscal year," he said.

There will be months of swelling amid the contraction but the trend is toward a gradually narrowing imbalance, Takagi said.

Export growth continues to slow, the ministry official said, while import growth remains firm.

Indeed, the yen-denominated surplus shrank 10.3 percent in fiscal 1993 and the trade surplus slimmed 9.1 percent, with both posting double-digit declines in March, he said.

The surpluses, in closely watched dollar terms, continue to be swayed by the yen's historic rise over the past year. The yen value used by the ministry for export prices soared 15.7 percent in fiscal 1993 to an average 108.17 yen to the dollar.

A higher yen is expected to curb Japan's surplus over time by making exports pricier in foreign currencies and imports cheaper in yen terms. But in the short run, a high yen inflates the dollar-denominated figures, causing the surplus to look like an inverted letter "J" on a graph.

"The J-curve effect is over," Takagi said. He said it is possible that the current account surplus could meet the government's forecast of shrinking to 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product this fiscal year from around 3.1 percent the year before.

Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito said a "downward trend has emerged" in the current account surplus, noting the volume and yen-based declines. He told a regular press conference, "I think it will continue to decline."

Chief economist Jesper Koll at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc. predicted a sharper decline, noting the four-quarter decline in yen terms and the two quarters of shrinkage even in dollar terms.

"I think it's going to fall like a rock," he said, reckoning that at the current pace the current account surplus would be less than 2 percent of gross national product (GNP) by the end of December.

"The dynamics are coming through in all the numbers," Koll said. "Imports are growing at double-digits, and exports are flattish."

Among the rising imports were semiconductors and wood products, the ministry official said. Although crude oil imports were nearly flat by volume, the price dropped 13 percent to an average 16.73 dollars a barrel in fiscal 1993, depressing the dollar figure, he said.

Automobiles were among the export decliners, the official said, but semiconductors and auto parts surged. Strong U.S. demand has helped those sectors in recent months even as other Japanese exporters have been crippled by the high yen.

In addition to the visible trade flows, Japan posted a deficit in services of 5.77 billion dollars in fiscal 1993, expanding 15.0 percent, the ministry said. The March services surplus shrank 58.3 percent to 1.78 billion dollars.

Hata Says Yen's 'Excessive Surge' Unfavorable

OW0605161594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1537 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Brussels, May 6 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday [6 May] the recent "excessive surge" in the yen is unfavorable.

In a press conference in Brussels, Hata said he wants the Bank of Japan to respond to foreign exchange rate movements while maintaining close contact with other central banks in the United States and Europe. He also said exchange rates should properly mirror the economic fundamentals of the countries concerned.

Hata was on a six-day trip to Europe from Monday for talks with leaders in Italy, France, Germany and Belgium.

Defense Chief Backtracks on Collective Security

OW0905071294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Atsushi Kanda on Monday [9 May] turned back from an earlier stance and said he will abide by a longtime interpretation by previous governments that the Constitution bans the country from being involved in collective security arrangements.

Kanda told a news conference that the coalition government "cannot avoid discussing the Constitution...but I would rather say Japan should act in accordance with the current constitutional interpretation."

Shortly after assuming the post of state minister for defense late last month, Kanda said Japan needs to apply a more flexible interpretation to the Constitution regarding the exercise of collective security arrangements.

Political sources said Kanda might have withdrawn the earlier remark out of respect to the No. 2 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, which quit the coalition last month and opposed Kanda's proposal to revise the constitutional interpretation.

Hata Returns Home From 6-Day Visit to Europe

OW0705084894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata returned home Saturday [7 May] afternoon, ending a six-day official visit to Italy, France, Germany and Belgium.

The prime minister held talks with European leaders to establish personal relationships ahead of the July summit in Naples, Italy, of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Reports on Reaction to Nagano Remarks Continue

Hata Again Expresses Regret

OW0605160394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Brussels, May 6 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata reiterated Friday that Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's remarks concerning Japan's role in World War II were "inappropriate" and said he regrets that they were made. Speaking at a news conference in Brussels, Hata, who is on a tour of four European nations, said, "the remarks of Justice Minister Nagano were not appropriate. I frankly regret... I telephoned and reprimanded Justice Minister Nagano."

"Justice Minister Nagano said his remarks were inappropriate and he would retract them. He said his remarks hurt the sentiments of many people and repents," Hata said.

"I appointed him (as justice minister) because he is a man of noble character and has a sense of balance. I would like to accept his withdrawal of the remarks and apology seriously," he said.

Asked whether he will dismiss Nagano from the post, Hata said, "I will avoid referring to resignation at this point. (The government) is conveying the real intention (of Nagano) to various countries and I hope (they) will understand," he said.

Nagano said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday that Japan's role in the war was not aggression and the Nanjing massacre was a "fabrication." His remarks triggered an angry response from a number of Asian countries and he retracted them at a news conference Friday.

Nagano Resigns Over War Remarks

OW0705150894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano resigned Saturday [7 May] over his remarks that the 1937 Nanjing massacre never happened and that Japan was not an aggressor in World War II, and was replaced by Hiroshi Nakai of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP].

Nagano, a 71-year-old former serviceman who served for only 10 days as justice minister, submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, who just returned from a six-day tour of four European countries.

Hata accepted Nagano's resignation and named a successor from the DSP, a party in the ruling coalition. Nagano is a member of Shinseito, a core party of the coalition led by the prime minister.

Nakai, 51, is a House of Representatives lawmaker and a former deputy secretary general of the DSP.

Nakai's appointment is scheduled to be attested by Emperor Akihito at 10 A.M. Sunday, government sources said.

Nagano apologized to Hata for the trouble caused by his "inappropriate remarks" and vowed personal action to show that Japan will not start a war again, Nagano said after meeting Hata.

Nagano told Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai earlier in the day that he would resign because his comments had caused so much turmoil among Japan's international relations.

Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called Nagano's resignation a "matter of course," saying the remarks spoiled the LDP's diplomatic efforts with neighboring nations during its 38-year rule which ended last August.

Nagano said in an interview published Wednesday in major daily MAINICHI SHIMBUN, "the Nanjing incident was a fabrication."

He also said, "I think it is wrong to define the war as a war of aggression (by Japan) ... Still, I doubt the Greater East Asia War, as it was called in Japan, was aimed at aggression."

Following criticism from China, North and South Korea and other Asian countries Japan invaded before and during World War II, Nagano retracted his remarks and apologized at a news conference Friday.

China estimates that imperial Japanese Army troops massacred more than 300,000 Chinese civilians following their invasion of the then Chinese capital of Nanjing in December 1937. But Japanese historians tend to give lower estimates—mostly to the order of 100,000.

Nagano is the third minister to resign in eight years over similar remarks about the war.

In September 1986, Masayuki Fujio resigned as education minister under the administration of Yasuhiro Nakasone after provoking China and Korea with his remarks on Japan's prewar actions.

Fujio said Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910 was based on an agreement between the two countries and justified the Japanese act of colonization of the Korean peninsula. He also criticized Nakasone for canceling his visit to Yasukuni Shrine, which is dedicated to 2.4 million war dead, including A-class war criminals.

Seisuke Okuno resigned as National Land Agency chief under the administration of Noboru Takeshita in May 1988 over his war remarks.

"Japan fought the war in order to secure its safety ... Asia was colonized by Caucasians at that time. Japan was by no means a nation of aggression," he said.

Hata Admits 'Responsibility'

OW0805062994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Sunday [8 May] admitted his responsibility for the resignation of former Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano over his controversial remarks that the 1937 Nanjing massacre was a fabrication.

After he replaced Nagano with Hiroshi Nakai of the Democratic Socialist Party, Hata told reporters, "As a matter of fact, I am responsible (for his resignation) as the person who appointed him (as justice minister)." However, he added that he would like to show his responsibility by his own actions and efforts in preventing a war.

Opposition parties are reportedly ready to question his responsibility over Nagano's remarks at Diet deliberations which start Monday.

Hata said he anticipated such Diet deliberations on his responsibility, but added, "It is not bad to discuss these matters."

The premier said it is not fruitless if Diet deliberations will help unify a historic view of the Japanese people.

The prime minister also said he expects tough Diet going because his cabinet started as a minority government. He cited an early Diet passage of the government-proposed 1994 draft budget as the government's responsibility in the international community, considering Japan's current status in the world.

Asian Nations Told of Retraction

OW0905095494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Japan informed China, South Korea and other Asian nations that Shigeto Nagano retracted his earlier statements on Japan's wartime actions and that he has resigned as justice minister, Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito said Monday [9 May].

Saito told a press conference that the Japanese Government told the countries on Saturday about the contents of a news conference by Nagano in which he retracted earlier remarks that the 1937 Nanjing massacre was a fabrication.

Japan also informed the countries of the contents of a separate press conference in Brussels by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata in which the premier said he regretted Nagano's statements, he said.

Nagano resigned on Saturday.

The Japanese Government is currently considering whether further diplomatic measures are necessary to cope with criticism by Asian nations, Saito said.

Saito said that Nagano's remarks were regrettable because it may result, even temporarily, in misunderstandings by other nations of Japan's position on its wartime activities.

Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa offered a frank apology for Japan's wartime aggression last August when he assumed the premiership.

Nagano said last week that the Nanjing incident was a fabrication and that he still thinks it wrong to define the war as a war of aggression. His remarks touched off a wave of protest from Asian nations.

Ishida, Defense Chief on Resignation

OW0905061794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Komeito leader Koshiro Ishida, serving as director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, said Monday [9 May] it was "only natural" for Shigeto Nagano to have resigned as justice minister over his remarks on Japan's wartime aggression.

Ishida said in a press conference that Nagano's "extremely regrettable" remarks that the 1937 Nanjing massacre never happened and that Japan was not an aggressor in World War II "greatly impacted China and other Asian countries."

"So it's only natural that he took responsibility for it," he said.

Nagano, a 71-year-old member of the coalition's core party Shinseito and former military serviceman, resigned on Saturday after holding the post of justice minister for only 10 days. He was replaced by Hiroshi Nakai of the Democratic Socialist Party.

Ishida suggested that Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata undertake some kind of political overture vis-a-vis China in order to put bilateral relations back on a firm footing. He refuted criticism that the Nagano incident reflects the allegedly hawkish nature of the Hata cabinet and said that Nagano's remark was a personal observation.

In a separate press conference, Defense Agency Director General Atsushi Kanda said Nagano's remarks were "inappropriate," particularly so in light of the fact that it has recently become the government's clearly established view that Japan waged a war of aggression during World War II.

Hata Speaks to Cabinet Ministers

OW0905043894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0426 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata spoke to his cabinet ministers Monday [9 May] about the need to express to future generations the importance of Japan's remorse for its former wartime aggression, government officials said. Hata outlined his basic position on Japan's behavior in World War II after former Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano created an uproar last week with his denial of historical facts on Japanese aggression, the officials said.

"As the head of Shinseito during last year's general elections, I expressed (in speeches) my deep remorse and convictions over the Japanese military's aggressive behavior and colonial rule (in Asia)," Hata told the cabinet meeting. "Looking ahead to the 50th anniversary of the end of the war next year, we must express to future generations (our remorse)," Hata was quoted as saying.

On his decision to appoint Nagano as justice minister, Hata said that he had asked about his views of the war and got the reply that "war must not happen again."

When Nagano offered his resignation over his controversial remarks, including the charge that the Chinese account of the 1937 Nanjing massacre is a "fabrication," Hata said he accepted the resignation without any special effort to dissuade Nagano.

At Monday's cabinet meeting, newly appointed Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai greeted the ministers, but did not go on to offer his views of the war, the officials said.

During an extended Japanese holiday period last week while Hata was on a four-nation tour of Europe, the prime minister outlined his position on the war and Japanese colonial rule in a letter to the cabinet ministers.

Borrowing from former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, Hata wrote "In the past, the aggressive behavior and colonial rule of our nation inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow on many people. I want to express anew my feelings of deep remorse and apology."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai said he thought the cabinet ministers fully understood Hata's cautionary letter regarding Nagano's controversial remarks.

Meanwhile, Hata spoke at a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry to officially hand over the post of foreign minister to Koji Kakizawa, and said he is well aware that Japan's colonial policy and actions during World War II inflicted unbearable suffering upon neighboring and other Asian nations.

The prime minister said he wants to do his best to bring peace to the world based on remorse.

Hata called Nagano's remarks on Japan's wartime aggression very "regrettable" and that it was an "unexpected happening" since he personally had trust in Nagano.

Nagano resigned over the weekend due to international outrage over his remarks that the 1937 Nanjing massacre never happened and that Japan's invasion of China and other Asian nations was not an act of aggression but aimed at liberating these countries from colonialism.

Hata said that as a Japanese, he feels proud to apologize and show remorse about the fact that Japan caused pain to other nations. He urged Kakizawa to carry out diplomacy aimed at bringing peace to the world.

Kakizawa told the same ceremony he will carry forward Hata's diplomatic policy and work to create a Japan which can be trusted and loved by other nations.

Hiroshi Nakai Appointed New Justice Minister

OW0805012894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0115 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata appointed a lower house member Hiroshi Nakai of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] as justice minister early Sunday morning, replacing Shigeto Nagano for his controversial remarks over the 1937 Nanjing massacre and Japan's role during World War II.

Emperor Akihito is scheduled to attest Nakai's appointment at 10 A.M. Sunday at the Imperial House.

Prime Minister Hata explained his views on World War II to the new justice minister, saying that Japan's act of aggression as well as its colonial rule inflicted great pains on a number of people, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai. Hata asked Nakai to conform to the prime minister's position, Kumagai added.

At a press conference early Sunday morning, Nakai said, "it is an undeniable fact that (the former Japanese Imperial Army) conducted cruel acts," when he was asked about the Nanjing massacre.

Political observers said that Prime Minister Hata apparently picked the new justice minister from the DSP in a bid to appease mounting criticisms against the Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]- controlled cabinet in the wake of Nagano's controversial remarks. Nagano is a member of Shinseito, a key political party of the coalition.

The observers added Shinseito intends to show its remorse and responsibility over party member Nagano's remarks by handing over the ministerial post to the DSP.

Nagano, 71-year-old former chief of staff of Ground Self-Defense Force who served for only 10 days as justice minister, submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Hata shortly after he returned from a six-day tour of four European countries.

Hata accepted Nagano's resignation and named a successor from the DSP, a party in the ruling coalition, after about three hours of consultations with Chief Cabinet Secretary Kumagai and other members of the cabinet.

The 51-year-old Nakai, deputy secretary general of the DSP, is the youngest justice minister in postwar Japan.

Nagano apologized to Hata for the trouble caused by his remarks and vowed personal action to show that Japan will not start a war again, Nagano said after meeting Hata. At a press conference following his resignation, Nagano reiterated his apology, saying "(My remarks) caused great shocks and angers among peoples in neighboring countries."

Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the largest opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called Nagano's resignation a "matter of course," saying the remarks spoiled the diplomatic efforts the LDP made to improve ties with neighboring nations as the ruling party for 38 years until last August.

Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ], former largest force in the coalition, said Nagano's resignation is only natural as it damaged the Japanese Government's international integrity.

Both the LDP and the SDP are ready to question the Hata cabinet over Nagano's war remarks in Diet deliberations slated to begin on Monday. Nagano said in an interview published Wednesday in the major daily MAINICHI SHIMBUN, "The Nanjing incident was a fabrication." He also said, "I think it is wrong to define the war as a war of aggression (by Japan)... Still, I doubt the Greater East Asia War, as it was called in Japan, was aimed at aggression."

The remarks immediately drew harsh criticisms from China, North and South Korea and other Asian countries, making Nagano to retract his remarks and apologize at a news conference Friday.

The Nanjing incident refers to the massacre of a great number of Chinese by the defunct Imperial Japanese Army troops following the invasion of the then Chinese capital in December 1937.

New Minister Expresses Remorse

OW0905120894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—New Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai expressed remorse Monday [9 May] over Japan's aggression and colonial rule in the first half of the century. But he refrained from criticizing his predecessor Shigeto Nagano, who quit over his controversial remarks about the war. "As one of the Japanese I must have a feeling of deep remorse and apology for the numerous acts of aggression, including colonization," Nakai said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at his office at the Justice Ministry.

Nakai replaced Nagano, who resigned as justice minister Saturday to take responsibility for his remarks, which were published in a newspaper last Wednesday. He said the 1937 Nanjing massacre was a fabrication and that Japan's war with China and other countries was not aimed at aggression.

"It's correct that the Imperial Japanese Army after invading Nanjing at the time massacred ordinary Chinese people," Nakai said.

Unlike Nagano, who participated in the war with China as an army officer, Nakai, born in 1942 in China's Changchun, which then belonged to the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo, was still a child at the time the war ended. But as his family was repatriated in September 1946, Nakai said he is well aware of "the various implications Japan's utter defeat had."

Nakai, who was in the middle of a meeting with his election committee in Nabari, Mie Prefecture, when Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata called Saturday night to offer him the cabinet post, said he accepted out of understanding for "Hata's feelings in this very difficult situation."

Asked whether he plans to make use of his directional authority that allows the justice minister to intervene with the prosecution, Nakai said he "does not intend to take action to intervene in individual problems."

He declined to comment on the ongoing debate about whether the United Nations should impose sanctions on North Korea to enforce its request for full inspections of the country's nuclear facilities, saying he first wants to study relevant reports currently being prepared by various government institutions.

Stressing that the justice minister's duty is to maintain law and order, Nakai said he does not want to become involved in the discussion about the enactment of legislation covering emergencies and whether Japan should claim the right to collective defense.

"It's quite right that everybody voices different views and standpoints, and that the Diet and political parties deliberate (this problem)...However, I don't want to anticipate this discussion," Nakai said.

Nakai Said Environment Advocate

OW0705151794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Newly-appointed Justice Minister Hiroshi Nakai is known as an advocate of environmental problems in the House of Representatives.

Nakai, a 51-year-old lower house legislator of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), replaced Shigeto Nagano, 71, Saturday after Nagano resigned over his remarks denying the 1937 Nanjing massacre and Japan's aggressive role in World War II.

Nakai has served as the DSP's deputy secretary general and as chairman of the lower house Committee on Commerce and Industry.

Nakai, born in the Chinese northeastern province of Jilin, was elected to the lower house for the first time in 1976 and has since been reelected six times from the No. 1 constituency of Mie Prefecture. Before embarking on his career as a politician, Nakai worked as a secretary for his father who was a lower house legislator of the Social Democratic Party.

SDPJ To Enhance Cooperation With Sakigake

OW0905041994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0349 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP), whose pullout has plunged the coalition government into a minority, will seek parliamentary cooperation with the new party Sakigake [Harbinger], a top SDP official said Monday [9 May].

SDP chairman Tomiichi Murayama will visit the headquarters of Sakigake Tuesday for talks with Sakigake leader Masayoshi Takemura in a bid to create a political alliance, the official said.

The SDP wants to secure Takemura's consent to form a joint parliamentary group between the two in a bid to confront the fragile minority government of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, political sources said.

The move, if materialized, might trigger a fresh momentum to start a "second reconfiguration of the political community" by motivating some Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rebels to join their prospective alliance, they said.

The SDP has been seeking to bring about a convergence of social democrat forces and liberal political forces.

However, Takemura may face some intraparty resistance to the proposed merger with the SDP, as its 15 House of Representatives legislators are former defectors from the conservative LDP that has strongly upheld the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the sources said.

The policy stand of the LDP breakaway also clashes with other aspects of the socialists, who have called for a scaling down of the Self-Defense Forces and balked at the proposed expansion of Japan's dependence on nuclear power generation, the sources said.

The SDP stormed out of the coalition on April 26 after it was infuriated by the sudden formation of a 130-member parliamentary bloc comprising conservative coalition parties in the lower house following a bitter policy row within the coalition.

The SDP has stood up to the Shinseito-led conservative mainstream in the coalition, which has called for a hike in the consumption tax and close security cooperation with the U.S. Forces to deal with a possible contingency on the Korean peninsula.

The SDP's Murayama earlier suggested that close cooperation with Sakigake would help alleviate the voter perception of the party as a left-leaning ideological hard-liner, saying, "cooperation with Sakigake will change the image of the SDP."

Sakigake, Seiun Form Joint Parliamentary Group

OW0905025294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—New party Sakigake [Harbinger] and the group Seiun launched a unified 18-legislator parliamentary group in the House of Representatives on Monday [9 May], party officials said.

Sakigake, the 15-legislator party, is headed by former Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura in the preceding coalition government of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who lead his 37-member Japan New Party.

The three-legislator Seiun, a breakaway from the JNP, splintered after Hosokawa reneged on his promise to merge with Sakigake. Now, the new parliamentary bloc has emerged as the fifth largest parliamentary group in the lower house after the 206-member Liberal Democratic Party, the 130-member Kaishin (Innovation), the 74-member Social Democratic Party and the 52-legislator Komeito.

Takemura distanced his party from the coalition after Hosokawa decided to side with the chief coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, who is credited with sweeping his ally Tsutomu Hata to prime ministership in a policy reconciliation talk that led up to the April 25 Diet vote.

Ozawa and Takemura have confronted each other over the wisdom of proposals to expand Japan's parts [as received] in UN peacekeeping missions, hike the rate of the consumption tax, and taking a tougher line over the suspected North Korean nuclear arms program.

SDPJ Pledges To Cooperate With LDP

OW0905083294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—The head of Japan's No. 2 opposition party pledged Monday [9 May] to cooperate with the largest opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), against what he called the coalition's high-handed management of state affairs. Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan, SDPJ] (SDP), said at a meeting of delegates from the SDP's prrefectural chapters that the party will flexibly join forces with the LDP to combat "power-oriented politics."

The SDP chairman also vowed to put the party on alert for a "battle" that could come at any time since Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata faces a heap of issues that demand a clear mandate of the people. His remarks were viewed by some political pundits as a signal that the SDP is looking for an early general election for the House of Representatives because Hata's minority government is in a very precarious position.

The SDP broke ranks with the ruling coalition immediately after the party helped put Hata in office. The split came in a feud when the coalition's majority forces led the core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] due to their move to create a large parliamentary bloc excluding the SDP.

The SDP, which had constituted the largest component of the coalition, criticized Hata's Shinseito and its closest ally Komeito for their "forceful" handling of Diet business. The SDP's walkout left Hata's coalition with a minority in the lower house.

If the SDP and its former archrival LDP enter into alliance, they could easily put the Hata administration in a corner by, for instance, passing a no-confidence motion. In that case, Hata will have to call a snap election or resign with his ministers.

Murayama's remarks also appear to reflect the widening rift between his party and the coalition over key political issues, in particular over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons program and Japan's tax reform plans.

The SDP is leery of growing signs that the coalition might take a hard-line stance against Pyongyang, with even a possibility of sending Self-Defense Forces members overseas to join an international blockade.

On the tax issue, Hata and his powerful behind-the-scenes partner Ichiro Ozawa want to raise the 3-percent consumption tax to fund proposed income tax cuts and set aside funds to support an aging society. But for many SDP policy makers, raising the consumption tax is still an anathema because they fiercely opposed the introduction of the value-added tax.

Murayama recently said the consumption tax should be abolished as part of sweeping tax reform to realize a better balance in taxation on income, consumption and assets.

LDP, JCP Urge Hosokawa Testimony Over Loan

OW0905100994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Monday [9 May] called for a Diet testimony by former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa over a loan he received from a trucking company, resulting in a scandal that toppled him from office. The two parties made the demand at a preparatory meeting of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, claiming Hosokawa conceded that remarks he made before the Diet and the documents he presented concerning the loan included falsehood.

The LDP and the JCP also requested that three other persons, including Hosokawa's Secretary Namio Yatsuka, be summoned to the committee as witnesses over Hosokawa's shady fund management.

The 100 million yen Hosokawa borrowed from Sagawa Kyubin Co., a scandal-ridden trucking company, in 1982 created a Diet stalemate which led to his resignation last month. Hosokawa admitted in a press conference when he announced his resignation that he received the interest on the loan as a political contribution, partly revising his previous account that he had fully repaid the loan with interest.

In connection with the fund management problem, Hosokawa's secretary said last month that his private office had failed to report investment profits of 29 million yen to tax authorities. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai, however, hinted at a press conference Monday [9 May] that the ruling coalition is not enthusiastic about summoning Hosokawa before the Diet.

An executives' meeting of the upper house's budget committee later decided to summon financial consultant Shuzo Fujiki before the committee Wednesday as a witness in Hosokawa's alleged involvement in the 1986 purchase of shares in telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.

The committee will formalize the decision in a meeting Tuesday.

Hosokawa has denied he was personally involved in the transaction, saying the deal was conducted by his late father-in-aw, although he has admitted he provided collateral for a loan from a stock investment firm to finance the purchase.

Opposition lawmakers claim Hosokawa used his position as a regional governor to secure the loan under favorable conditions.

Fujiki has said at a press conference he arranged the loan for Hosokawa and that it was his own deal.

The opposition camp apparently hopes Fujiki's testimony will force the ruling coalition to allow Hosokawa himself to be called before the committee and eventually force the former premier to resign as a member of the Diet.

Sumitomo Allegedly Paid Rightist 140 Million Yen

OW0905121894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Sumitomo Heavy Industries Ltd. allegedly paid 140 million yen to the president of an Osaka-based rightist organization as a fee for settling the company's trouble with another rightist group over the construction of an incinerator, industry sources said Monday [9 May].

The sources said the major shipbuilder in the Sumitomo conglomerate made a consultant contract with a company run by the head of the rightist group in Osaka Prefecture, after the shipbuilder won a contract last August to build the incinerator in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture. The company paid 140 million yen into the account of the company run by the rightist under the name of a consultation fee, the sources said.

Rumors of bid-rigging surrounded the incinerator project and another rightist group had criticized the bid from a truck equipped with loudspeakers near Tsukuba's City Hall and at the mayor's house in late November last year, just before the ceremony to begin building the incinerator.

The president of the rightist group which made the consultant contract with Sumitomo Heavy Industries requested the other rightist group to stop its criticisms at that time, according to the sources.

A public relations official of Sumitomo Heavy Industries refused to comment on the allegations.

North Korea

U.S., ROK, Japanese 'Rimpac' Exercise Decried

SK0705050794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 7 May 94

["What is 'Rimpac' Aimed At?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—It is very ill-boding that the U.S. imperialists, Japanese reactionaries and South Korean puppets are going to stage the "Rimpac" war exercises in concert openly, while intensifying their conspiracy and tieup in an effort to stifle the DPRK on the pretext of its fictitious "nuclear issue", says a MINJU CHOSON commentary today, which reads in part:

The U.S. imperialists are threatening the DPRK by shipping into South Korea Patriot missiles and other sophisticated combat equipment and ceaselessly staging war exercises, big and small, vociferating about "international sanctions" and "military countermove" against the DPRK.

The Japanese reactionaries and other U.S.-toeing forces, too, are joining them by clamoring for "international cooperation system". The South Korean puppet clique broke down talks with the North and are leaving no stone unturned, as a shock-force, to stifle the fellow countrymen with the backing of outside forces.

At a time like this, the United States, Japan and South Korea are trying to stage a large-scale joint war gamble. It is only too clear what they seek through the gamble.

It proves that the U.S., Japan and South Korean reactionaries are intending to contain the DPRK militarily through their conspiracy and tieup under the cloak of "international cooperation system" and, to this end, they are substantiating their criminal triangular military alliance.

The United States and its followers are trying to destroy the DPRK, the bulwark of socialism, by driving the situation on the Korean peninsula into extremes militarily, but it is a foolish idea.

Should the United States and its followers persist in straining the situation on the Korean peninsula by staging "Rimpac" joint war exercises, they would be held wholly responsible for grave consequences arising therefrom.

Pyongyang Radio Reports 5 May U.S. Exercise

SK0705023594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] According to a military source, on 5 May the U.S. imperialists staged a provocative nocturnal aerial surprise strike exercise over the sea aimed at a Northward invasion. This frantic war exercise was staged on a large scale, which was waged in the air over the sea off Kangnung from around 1900 to around 2200, using pursuit-assault planes and vertical takeoff and landing assault plane squadrons from U.S. Pacific area bases; and fighter bombers, assault planes, and observation planes of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea.

E-3 early warning planes serving as an aerial flight command post, which had flown into U.S. occupation Air Force bases in South Korea prior to this war exercise, directed a comprehensive command of the aircraft mobilized for aerial surprise strike exercises over the sea, flying around in the air over the operational area on that night.

This war exercise was like playing with fire aimed at increasing the capabilities for actual warfare for nocturnal aerial surprise strikes over the sea for a Northward invasion under the command of E-3 early warning planes.

In the meantime, two KC-135 refueling planes from an overseas base were mobilized in the air over the sea off Kunsan that night for a double flight over Anma Island and Woeyon Island, conducting midair refueling for several tens of fighter bombers, assault planes, and observation planes mobilized for the nocturnal aerial war exercise.

This war maneuver fully reveals that the U.S. imperialists are recklessly running amok to realize their attempt to launch a surprise aerial preemptive strike against the Northern part of the Republic.

Radio Reports 6 May U.S., ROK 'War Exercise'

SK0805044494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2213 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets conducted a war exercise for a Northward invasion and aerial espionage.

According to military sources, on 6 May, the U.S. imperialists dragged squadrons of fighter planes from its overseas bases into the skies above South Korea and conducted again a provocative aerial war exercise for a Northward invasion.

That day, the squadrons of fighter bombers and pursuit-assault planes that moved out from U.S. bases in the Pacific area to the skies above Yongwol, Pyongchang, Taejon, and Yechon frantically waged a surprise attack exercise against strategic targets in the Northern half of the Republic.

Mobilized to this war exercise were those airplane squadrons from overseas bases and some 180 various fighter bombers, assault planes, observation planes, and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. occupation Air Force in South Korea and of the puppet Air Force.

This frantic war exercise under the command of E-3 airborne warning and control planes that flew from a base in Okinawa, Japan was aimed at examining the practicality [hyonsilsong] of cooperation among airplane squadrons from overseas bases, the U.S. occupation Air Force in South Korea, and the puppet Air Force; and examining their capability of making a surprise attack for a Northward invasion.

On the same day, An RC-135 tactical reconnaissance plane flew from an overseas base into the skies above the area near the DMZ and then carried out electronic reconnaissance on strategic points in the northern half of the Republic while flying at a high altitude for a long time.

At the same time, A P-3 off-the-shelf aircraft [panjamgi] belonging to the Seventh U.S. Fleet flew into the skies above the East Sea of South Korea and then ran wild in carrying out espionage on our side's coastline and sea. A U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane madly photographed and carried out electronic reconnaissance on areas in the Northern half of the Republic while flying day and night in the skies above an area near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

In the meantime, the South Korean puppets were frenzied in firing bombs near the MDL in the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ], as well as increasing armed troops there. On 6 May, the South Korean puppets mobilized and deployed several tens of large-caliber gun units in Kumsan-ri, Puju county, with their barrels turned toward Songdong- ri, a western area of the front line in front of us, and moved hundreds of rascals with heavy arms [chungmujang aktangdul] forward from Hyon-ri, Imje county, an eastern area of the front line, and deployed them in an area adjacent to the DMZ.

On the same day, after occupying firing positions at Chongja-ri in Paju county and Kangnae-ri in Yonchon county, the puppet Army's large-caliber artillery units showed off a war frenzy by firing tens of bombs at an area near the DMZ.

These war maneuvers are a grave challenge to detent and peace on the Korean peninsula.

ROK Exercise Planned for 9-14 May Denounced

SK0805055694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2216 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] According to Seoul radio, the nation-selling Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique proclaimed [kongpo] on 6 May that the puppet Army, Navy, and Air Force will stage a joint tactical exercise for the first half of the year, a new large-scale war exercise, from 9 through 14 May.

The puppet clique is planning to carry out operations on the ground, in the air, and in the sea—including a battle exercise; a chemical, biological, and radiological war exercise; an exercise on transporting troops and equipment; and a takeoff and landing exercise on emergency airstrips—in the north of Kyonggi Province near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], South Kyongsang Province, and the West Sea of South Korea. The puppet clique is also planning to mobilize many domestic reserve troops for this war exercise.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets should think deeply about the grave consequences as a result of their criminal act of driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war by repeating armed reinforcement and war exercises.

KCNA Denounces Planned Exercise

SK0805081094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 8 May 94

["Large-Scale War Gamble Planned by South Korean Puppets"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 8 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique Friday announced that a large-scale war exercise called a "joint tactical exercise in the first half of this year" would be staged by the puppet army, navy and air forces from May 9 to 14, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The puppet clique plans to launch a three-dimensional "operation" on the ground and in air and sea including combat preparation exercise, chemical, biological and radioactive exercise, movement of armed forces and equipment, take-off and landing exercise on emergency runway, etc., and mobilize even the "homeland defence reserve forces".

Bellicose elements of South Korea, in a bid to justify their planned provocative war exercise, make an absurd pretext of "coping with surprise attack by the enemy".

The large-scale war exercise aimed at perfecting the attack posture of the puppet army, navy and air forces against the North arouses a precaution of people because it will be staged while stepping up preparations for a war against the North in the wake of the U.S. defense secretary's trip to Seoul.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should ponder over the grave consequences arising from their criminal act of leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war with repeated arms buildup and war exercises.

Radio Reports Collision of U.S Planes in South

SK0805061594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2217 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul, two U.S. Army fighter planes, which were running amok in a war exercise, collided in the skies above the sea southwest of Sosan, South Chungchong Province on 6 May. The fighter planes were broken into pieces and bits and one pilot was missing due to the aerial collision. The U.S. imperialist aggressive forces are frequently bringing about such an accident while bustling about in the war exercise to invade the North.

Radio on ROK's Military Acts Inside DMZ

SK0905065694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0320 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The South Korean puppets have committed a grave military provocation inside the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ].

The South Korean puppets on 8 May committed a grave military provocation by deploying armored cars into the DMZ south of Ipo-ri, Kumgang County, Kangwon Province in the eastern section of the front line.

On the same day at around 1855, the puppets mobilized armored cars from the direction of Sowha-myon, Imje County of South Korea's Kangwon Province to the DMZ near the Military Demarcation Line and assumed a firing posture aimed at our side.

Prior to this, the puppets, on 1, 3, and 4 May deployed recoilless guns and large-caliber machine guns to the DMZ southeast of Kijon-ri, Changpung County, in the western section of the front line and set up a position.

On 5 May, they ran madly about by firing some 70 large-caliber machine gun bullets from the same position.

In the meantime, at around 1115 on 6 May, hundreds of puppet Army bandits armed with large-caliber machine guns and automatic weapons sneaked into the DMZ south of Peak No. 1211 in the eastern section of the front line, frantically staged a war exercise for a Northward invasion in broad daylight, which extremely irritated us.

In addition, the South Korean puppets, at around 0846 on 2 May, committed a hostile act of dragging some 10 vehicles loaded with hundreds of heavily armed bandits into the DMZ south of Mabang-ri, Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, in the central section of the front line.

From 1 to 8 May, the number of armed bandits brought in to build military facilities and positions inside the DMZ and to conduct war exercises reached approximately 6,400.

The recent arms buildup—timed to coincide with the South Korean puppets' war exercises for a Northward invasion staged with the U.S. imperialists under various titles by mobilizing the latest equipment of mass destruction—is a deliberate and premeditated military provocative act designed to drive the situation surrounding the Military Demarcation Line to a dangerous phase.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should squarely see the touch-and-go situation on the Korean peninsula due to the rascals' war provocative commotions and should not act recklessly.

ROK-Japan Plans for 'Joint Countermove' Decried

SK0705110494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 7 May 94

["Foolish Dream"--KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet defence minister, Yi Pyong-tae, during his recent trip to Japan discussed a military "joint countermove" of South Korea and Japan with the director general of the Japan Defence Agency for "regional security", once again taking issue with the "nuclear issue" of the North. And, later, the traitor Kim Yong-sam in a "telephone conversation" with the new Japanese prime minister, Tsutomu Hata, pressed home the necessity for "close cooperation" between Japan, South Korea and the United States for a solution of the "nuclear issue" of the North.

Commenting on this, an analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says:

The reckless military adventures committed by the traitor Kim Yong-sam against the North up until now surpass those of the successive South Korean military rulers.

The South Korean puppets this time begged their Japanese master for "joint countermeasure" to harm and stifle the North under the pretext of its "nuclear issue". This is motivated by their intention to keep the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea and persist in their confrontation with the North under their military support and in league with the Japanese aggression forces.

"Cooperation" on the lips of the puppets means subordinate relations of tieup between the master and the South Korean traitorous forces.

"Assistance" and "cooperation" "promised" by the U.S. and Japanese masters to the traitor Kim Yong-sam are all prompted by their sinister design to gratify their military strategical purpose in Asia-pacific without difficulty by putting them up as a shock force of aggression.

The sycophant moves of such traitors as Kim Yong-sam who overshadows the "five traitors of 1905" now make it possible for the Japanese reactionaries to stretch their tentacles of reinvasion deeply into South Korea.

The attempt of the South Korean puppets to overpower us with the help of outside forces is nothing but a foolish dream.

Greater ROK-Japan Military Cooperation Decried

SK0805091494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 8 May 94

["Sinister Intention"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today accuses the Japanese reactionaries of revealing their scheme to stage a comeback to Korea by crying for "regional security" together with the South Korean puppets and talking about "responsible countermeasure."

In a signed commentary on the South Korean puppet defence minister's trip to Japan, the paper says:

During the Japan trip of the puppet defence minister of South Korea, the first of its kind ever, measures for "regional security" to cope with the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK were discussed.

If Japan is truly concerned for "regional security" it must take issue with the United States which poses a grave threat to peace and security on the Korean peninsula with a large number of nuclear weapons while laying artificial obstacles to the settlement of the nuclear issue, as well as its servants the South Korean puppets.

The Japanese reactionaries plan to inveigle South Korea and countries in the Asia-Pacific region in their "comprehensive security sphere," because it is expected that their "security" by the United States cannot be guaranteed in "case of emergency." Their recent military confab with the South Korean puppets was within this framework.

The tightening of the military tieup between the Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets is a threat to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

That is why the Asian peoples are heightening vigilance over the intensified military collusion between Japan and South Korea.

The Japanese reactionaries and the South Korean puppets must not act rashly.

Crimes Committed by Defector to South Noted

SK0905112294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 9 (KCNA)—The subsidized propaganda machines in Seoul are getting over-heated these days in the anti-DPRK smear campaign through Yo Man-chol, 48, who fled to South Korea recently.

No one would lend an ear to the ugly torrent of trash rolling off the tongue of insane Yo, a human dirt. But we cannot say a few words about it, because his words are so disgusting and the South Korean puppets are doing such nasty things by manipulating him.

Yo Man-chol is a habitual criminal who committed acts never to be condoned under the political system of the North where a beautiful and sound life has become a social trait, all people helping each other and leading each other along.

While serving as a truck driver at the material supply center in Hamhung, he stole goods of the state worth more than 100,000 won. When he was carrying materials for daily necessities by truck from Pyongyang to Hamhung in December last year, he misappropriated goods worth 30,000 won or more. This theft committed by him was disclosed in the course of an overall survey of the warehousing and delivery of materials and equipment at the material supply centre, and he had to face justice. Yo felt uneasiness and fear and this was one of the motives of his defection to South Korea.

A criminal leaves a string of bad names behind him. "A mad man," "a gangster," "a drunkard" and "a sex maniac" are the words characterising the human derelict.

One time he was a driver at the Hoesang District security station in Hamhung. In those days he stayed away from work quite often under the pretext of illness, and loafed about and had a fight with his colleagues frequently.

In May 1983, while driving his truck, dead drunk, he hit a bus stop, inflicting heavy wounds on a number of people standing there.

Still more grave is that he styled himself an officer of the traffic safety section of the district security station, going in false security officer's uniform. In July 1986, disguised as a senior captain of the public security station, he stopped many trucks on a night street for no reason and, like a robber he is, forced the drivers to do something to line his pocket.

For these crimes he was disciplined and ousted from the post of the truck driver of the district security station.

The fatal evil practice of Yo Man-chol is sex mania which would make even a brute blush for shame.

Not only once he got it in the neck while attempting to rape married women. One night in February 1987, in nothing but pajamas, he broke into the house of a single woman in his neighbourhood unit and attempted to rape her, only to be trounced by the neighbours who came rushing at the scream of the woman.

His beastliness as a sex maniac reached the climax when he attempted to rape his eldest daughter Yo Kum-chu, 20, a district kindergaderner. One day in March 1992, when his wife, Yi Ok-kum, 45, who was a photographer at the Hoesang District light labor shop, Hamhung, was gone to her parental home in Kapsan, Yanggang Province, he drank like a fish at home and threw himself upon his daughter Kum-chu who was 18 years old at that time. When she resisted, he hit her on the head with a spanner, injuring her. When his eldest son Yo Kum-yong, who awoke, tried to stop him, he beat him on the head, leaving him in a critical condition.

His attempt to rape even his daughter under age, an act beyond human imagination, is enough to show what a despicable dirt Yo Man- chol is.

All this glaringly proves that Yo Man-chol is a criminal, a mentally deranged person and a human dross who do every evil without the elementary morality, conscience and ethic as a human being.

It is only too natural that such human derelict became a target of the accusing fingers of people. He became an object of guard not only among the neighbours but also among the Hamhung population who did not want him to live among them. He was compelled to move to Yanggang Province where his wife's parental home was. But, there also, he was rejected by people as a human rubbish. Yo's mental agony grew with the passage of time.

To cap it all, his misappropriation of a huge amount of property of the state was brought to light, leaving him no room to remain under socialism of our style centered on the popular masses. What he chose, driven to the bay, was to flee to South Korea.

A deer lives among deers and a dog among dogs. It is only too clear that the asylum for Yo Man-chol whose career is stained with indelible crimes and depravity, was the den of the South Korean puppet clique, the habitat of offscourings which invites and "welcomes" any human derelict, if it is for the anti-DPRK political smear campaign.

Still more ridiculous is the mean act of the South Korean puppet clique in using Yo, who can hardly rank among human-beings, as a propaganda tool for their sinister political purpose.

The foolish attempt of the Kim Yong-sam clique to impair the image of our socialist system centered on the popular masses, under which the people of the whole country form a big harmonious family, by using such immoral human dirt, brings into the open the moral inferiority of the puppets.

Not much penetration is needed to see that the anti-DPRK smear campaign of the puppets through Yo Man-chol is underlain by the foolish and sinister intention to evade the crisis of destruction by lulling the anti-kim Yong-sam sentiments daily mounting among the South Korean people. But this will lead them nowhere.

The barking of dogs cannot move a big mountain and the outcries of human rubbish will only sound like a lamentation over the "civilian regime" of Kim Yong-sam on the threshold of death.

Daily Demands Repatriation of Korean War POW's

SK0605125494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 6 May 94

["Repatriation of Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan Demanded"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—South Korean rulers must stop trying to use for insidious political purpose the issue of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, who were taken prisoners during the war and had been kept in prison for many years, unconverted, and unconditionally send them back to the northern half of the country, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Recalling that the South side refused to send back Kim and Ham under an unreasonable pretext once again when the North side demanded their repatriation, the paper says:

This is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law and an unpardonable crime contrary to morality.

According to the provisions of the international humanitarian law, all of POWs are to be repatriated to their homeland immediately after the end of hostile acts. The South Korean authorities are only bound to send POWs Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan back to the North.

However, the successive rulers of South Korea had kept Kim and Ham in prison respectively for 33 years and seven months and 34 years, cruelly torturing and persecuting for the mere reason that they refused to be converted ideologically. They are denied to have communication with their families and relatives.

They, old valetudinarian men released from the prison, are maintaining the barest existence with toilsome physical labour in South Korea. Their hope is only to go back to the northern half of the country at an early date and live a quiet life for the rest of their days under the warm care of the thankful system and their families and relatives.

Their repatriation to the North is a matter out of politics, a matter of human conscience and morality. "Human rights" and "unification" much touted by the South Korean rulers while persistently detaining and persecuting Kim and Ham, refusing to send them back, are nothing but a deceptive argument.

If the South Korean authorities persistently block their repatriation, they will face a bitter condemnation at home and abroad, as a violator of the international humanitarian law and morality.

ROK's Work on Fast Breeder Reactor Denounced

SK0805085394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 8 May 94

["Development of Fast Breeder Reactor Must Be Stopped at Once"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean puppets' move to develop a fast breeder reactor under the nuclear umbrella of the United States, secure larger quantities of plutonium and manufacture nuclear weapons with it, as an unpardonable archcrime against the nation.

The news analyst says:

The white paper on the development of a fast breeder reactor by the South Korean puppets, which was recently issued by the South Korean National Democratic Front, shows how desperately the South Korean puppets work to develop nuclear weapons.

The South Korean puppets claim that the fast breeder reactor is the "most efficient source of energy" and its development is needed for "economic value." Their third-rate trick, however, cannot work.

They are desperately working to develop this type of reactor because they scheme to produce large quantities of nuclear weapon-grade plutonium and increase the amount of its stockpiling through legitimate import of plutonium under the pretext of feeding the fast breeder reactor.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique must close down the pressurized heavy water reactor and the multi-purpose reactor and immediately stop the development of a fast breeder reactor before it meets with a bitterer denunciation and rejection at home and abroad as a nuclear maniac.

Daily Urges Kim Yong-sam Group To 'Step Down'

SK0605055294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 6 May 94

["NODONG SINMUN on Corruption of Kim Yong-sam Group"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam has never let a chance pass by without saying "he would not receive or request political funds from anyone."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands his remarks as a lie.

Though the traitor is still advertising his "uprightness," the offensive smell is coming from "Chongwadae [presidential office]," the analyst says, and goes on:

A few days ago, the president of the Democratic Party of South Korea told a special press conference that Kim Yong-sam was involved in the large-scale sangmudae political fund scandal which has caused quite a stir and urged him to make the case clear.

The scandal means that a big part of some 150 billion won earmarked for the project of the transfer of the Sangmudae Military Training Centre of the puppet army in Kwangju flowed into "Chongwadae," "the Democratic Liberal Party" and "the administration."

With the opposition party's offensive intensified over the scandal, "Chongwadae" and "the DLP" are now trying hard to hush it up.

Kim Yong-sam, the chieftain of corruption, is crying in public for "a thorough investigation into the scandal," while covertly manipulating the prosecution to hush it up.

It has been revealed once again that the "civilian" clan including the traitor Kim Yong-sam and his "DLP" and "administration" is a gang of robbers.

To cap it all, it has been brought to light that the second son of the traitor took 120 million won as a political fund from the Han Yang Business Relief Committee with a promise to "settle the public appeal."

With public resentment growing in this regard, "the civilian" regime is trying to shift the blame for the Sangmudae scandal on to "Chongwadae in the Sixth Republic" and the blame for the scandal related to the second son of the traitor on to the former "chief secretary of Chongwadae in charge of rectification." The traitor Kim is a master hand in dodging the blame by shifting it on to others.

The "civilian" regime's advertisement about "uprightness" and "liquidation of corruption" has fallen on the ground. The reality shows that the "civilian" regime is more corrupt than the "Fifth and Sixth Republics."

The Kim Yong-sam group had better step down from power before it is too late.

ROK Student Killed by Bullet During Training

SK0705044894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The death of Chang Tok-su, a student of the faculty of business economics of Sejong University in Seoul, in a reserve force training at a puppet Army unit of South Korea on May 3, has turned out to have been caused by a live bullet, not by a blank shot as had been announced by the puppet Defence Ministry, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This was verified when a M-16 gun bullet was found in his body in an autopsy done by the Scientific Investigation Institute on May 5.

Prof. Yi Yun-song of Seoul National University, who had participated in the autopsy, also stated that the death of the student was by a live bullet.

The bereaved family of the student and representatives of Sejong University are angrily denouncing the criminal act of the warmaniacs and strongly demanding the resignation of the puppet minister of defence.

The General Student Council of Sejong University at a press conference on May 4 urged the resignation of the puppet minister of defence, declaring that Chang Tok-su died because of the unprecedentedly intensive, murderous training.

South Korean Students Reported Staging Protest

SK0605050294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Some 1,000 students in Jonju, South Korea, had a starting ceremony at the Jonbuk National University Thursday and vowed a vigorous fight to achieve national reunification and democracy, a radio report from Seoul said.

The starting ceremony was sponsored by the North Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils consisting of general student councils of 15 universities in the province.

After the ceremony the students took to the streets and staged a protest, distributing to citizens copies of a literature calling for "Refusal of National Assembly endorsement of the final act of the Uruguay Round of world trade talks".

Hanminjon on South Developing Chemical Weapons

SK0705002494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) published an open letter on April 30 exposing the anti-national and inhumanitarian development of chemical weapons by the South Korean authorities, according to the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation.

The letter says:

It was in the late 1960s and the early 1970s that the South Korean military fascist group made the development of chemical weapons its policy.

When Nixon made public the "Guam Declaration" in 1969, the military fascist regime defined it as the keynote policy of the dictatorial regime to develop chemical weapons along with nuclear weapons under the pretext of "filling up the blanket caused by the reduction of the U.S. Forces." This policy was pursued by the traitor Pak Chong-hui and then in the days of Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and is now being stepped up by Kim Yong-sam.

South Korea has produced large quantities of chemical weapons.

The authorities have introduced many chemical weapon factories. There are eleven companies producing MIC (methyl isocyanate) in South Korea, all of them brought from the United States.

In an Asian country, this poison gas leaked from a chemical factory for 12 hours to leave some 4,000 people dead, 20,000 blind and 200,000 poisoned within the radius of 40 kilometres.

The authorities are building by themselves many factories of awfully deadly poison gas. Factories producing such kind of toxic gas number ten or more, among them the TDI (toluene diisocyanate) in the Imhae complex, Kunsan, the Inchon factory of the oriental chemical industrial company, the Korea Pacific Chemical Corporation and the Sam Yang Chemical Company. They produce chemical weapons under the cover of production of chemicals for civil use, and deliver them to the military.

TDI and phosgene, chlorine and other materials used in it are strong poisonous substances which are themselves chemical weapons.

The annual production of phosgene is 96,000 tons in South Korea (SEOUL SINMUN January 12, 1993) and gaseous chlorine stockpiled amounts to thousands of tons.

Producers of poisonous chemical materials used for the production of chemical weapons number more than 30 and the scale of the annual production of materials liable to control has exceeded 120,000 tons (SEOUL SINMUN, January 12, 1993.)

The ruling group of traitors has developed and stockpiled nerve gas, suffocative toxicant and other kinds of chemical weapons designed for attack, killing of domestic animals and destruction of forests in military areas and densely populated areas in the rear.

Deployed in the whole frontline areas are 15 chemical attack units including chemical depot No. 31 of the second logistic command of the Army, chemical depot No. 12 of the third Army support command, the 16th chemical support battalion under the sixth Army and the chemical battalion under the third Army. The chemical units continue tests of exploding, throwing and launching handgrenades, mines, bombs, shells, rockets, warheads of missile and other firing or launched and jet-propelled weapons which are charged with various kinds of chemical materials.

The Korean nation may suffer not only from poison gas made by South Korea but also from gas bombs of the U.S. Forces.

The United States, which had brought a large quantity of chemical weapons into South Korea, has deployed many binary chemical weapons in main military operational areas according to the decision of the 18th "South Korea-U.S. Annual Security Meeting" in 1986.

The United States and the South Korean traitors have steadily cultivated the tactics of using chemical weapons together with nuclear weapons in the Team Spirit manoeuvres directed against the North, regarding chemical weapons as "one of the main elements of military potentials."

The open letter concludes with the following words:

The criminal production and deployment of chemical weapons by the South Korean authorities are not only a total challenge to the September, 1992, international accord prohibiting the development, production, stockpile and use of chemical weapons but also a hostile act going against the North-South agreement on nonaggression.

The United States and the Kim Yong-sam group are now crying over "the issue of chemical weapons" of the North. This is a premeditated ruse to cover up their criminal preparations for chemical warfare. Our people must rise up resolutely in the massive struggle for removing the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and, at the same time, checking the production and use of chemical weapons, the most heinous, brutal, anti-national and anti-human act, by the South Korean authorities.

Destruction of Environment in ROK Condemned

SK0605051294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Three environmental organisations of South Korea held a press conference in Seoul on May 3 and denounced the puppet Home Ministry for destroying environment, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They in a statement expressed concern over the possible serious environmental destruction to be entailed by the large mountain villa which the puppet Home Ministry is going to build in Mt. Sorak by abusing power and demanded an immediate stop to the plan.

Radio Cites Spokesman on Nagano Remarks

SK0705225994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2112 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry, asked by a KCNA today to comment on the Japanese justice minister's recent outburst defending Japan's past aggression, said:

To the great consternation and resentment of the Korean people, Asian countries and the world public, Japan's Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano in an interview with the MAINICHI SHIMBUN newspaper 3 May said the Pacific war was not a war of aggression and the Nanjing Massacre was a "hoax."

Dismayed at the strong protest of public opinion at home and abroad, he called a "press conference" Friday to "revoke" and "apologize" for what he had said. However, it is no use crying over spilled milk.

The official statement of a country's justice minister cannot be regarded as a mistake. It reflects the political climate of Japan embodying militarism.

It has been nearly half a century since the end of World War II, but the Japanese authorities are trying to whitewash the past crimes and defend militarism, far from properly liquidating the past. This clearly shows they still have the old dream of "the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" for which they cried out during the Pacific war of aggression.

We cannot but take a serious view of the outburst because it came at a time when the Japanese authorities were intensifying their repressing and destroying maneuver [tanap malsal chaektong] against the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan as never before over the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK and undisguisedly resorting to the anti-DPRK campaign such as legal study to cope with the case of emergency on the Korean peninsula and debate on constitutional revision.

This proves that Japanese militarism has revived and plans to realize its aggressive design by force of arms and regards the Korean peninsula as the first target.

It is crystal-clear how dangerous it is for Japan obsessed with militarism and revanchism to work hard to take a permanent membership in the UN Security Council allegedly for its "international contribution."

The Asian peoples, who have fallen victim to Japanese imperialism in the past, and the peaceloving peoples of the world must pay due attention to and take precautions against reviving Japanese militarism. Japan must clearly know that militarist revival will lead to its own grave.

Resignation of Japan's Justice Minister Noted

SK0905053494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 9 May 94

["Disgraceful Resignation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 9 (KCNA)—Shigeto Nagano Saturday resigned as justice minister of Japan in face of strong criticism at home and abroad, a news report from Tokyo said.

In an interview with the MAINICHI SHIMBUN newspaper of Japan May 3, he said the Pacific war started by Japanese imperialism was not a war of aggression and that the Nanjing massacre was a "hoax." His remarks whitewashing the blood-stained history of aggression of Japanese imperialism and defending militarism greatly startled and angered the Korean people, Asian countries and the world public. The Japanese people and public circles strongly demanded his resignation.

Upset by this, Nagano at a "press conference" Friday "revoked" and "apologized" for what he had said and at last could not help resigning.

Nagano is not the first to resign as cabinet minister after letting out anachronistic militarist remarks.

The case is the same with former Education Minister Fujio who justified in 1986 the Japanese imperialists' invasion of Korea and with former director general of the land administration agency Okuno who said in 1988 that Japan had "no aggressive design" during World War II. Nagano had to resign in ten days after he was appointed justice minister in the Hata cabinet.

Through the shameful cases of those who resigned in face of strong protest and criticism at home and abroad for their attempt to revive the ghost of militarism, Japan must clearly know that militarist revival will lead to its own grave.

Daily Says Japan's Nuclear Ambition Unchanged

SK0905055494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 9 (KCNA) —NODONG SINMUN today comments on Japan's decision to postpone the plutonium utility program.

The news analyst says:

Japan's measure does not mean abandoning the plutonium utility program but postponing the construction of a new plutonium production facility.

Japan's abrupt decision to postpone the program is a crafty ruse to convince the world public of its non-nuclear will, avoid international criticism and isolation and create a favorable climate for holding a permanent membership in the U.N. Security Council.

The decision came in the wake of Japan's calculation that the postponement of the construction of a new plutonium production facility will do no harm to its nuclear arms development.

Japan's efforts to convert itself into a military power and arm itself with nuclear weapons are based on revanchism.

The Japanese ruling quarters obsessed with the ambition to lord it over in the international arena as a military and political power regard nuclear armament as an inevitable means to carry into practice their ambition.

With no trick can the Japanese authorities conceal their ambition for nuclear armament.

Japan must give up nuclear armament, mindful that this will lead to its own destruction.

Delegation of Korean Residents in Japan Depart

SK0705115094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan led by Yi Chin-kyu, first vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon], left here today by air after participating in celebrations of April 15.

It was seen off at the airport by Kim Yong-sun, Chang Chol and other officials concerned.

Committee Urges Normalization of Japan Ties

SK0705002394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 4 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The Aime prefectural 100 men committee for early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations sent a letter of request to the Japanese prime minister and the chief cabinet secretary on April 27, demanding the early normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

The letter of request said that the grave situation of the Korean peninsula is the result that Japan has pursued the hostile policy toward the DPRK in league with the United States, instead of liquidating its past colonial rule.

Japan should no longer coil up the tension, clamouring about "nuclear suspicion in the North", but make efforts to normalize the diplomatic relations and strive for peace in the Korean peninsula and Asia, it noted.

Statement of 'Surviving Comfort Women' Noted

SK0605050694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The Measure Council of Surviving Comfort Women for the Army of South Korea consisting of women who were forced to serve as "comfort women" during the period of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule held a press conference on May 3 and demanded compensation from the Japanese Government, a radio report from Seoul said.

The council declared that it would pay a protest visit to Japan on May 16 in case the Japanese Government failed to make an apology and compensation for the issue of the "comfort women for the army".

CPC Delegation Leaves Pyongyang 4 May

SK0705014194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] A party functionaries delegation of the Communist Party of China [CPC] led by Bai Keming, deputy head of the Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, left Pyongyang by train on 4 May. Kim Yang-kon, vice director of a department of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee; and the counselor of the PRC Embassy in our country saw off the delegation at Pyongyang Station.

Reminiscences of Kim Il-song Published in China

SK0605051094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Vols. 1 and 2 of Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution" of the great leader President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" were published in one book by the social science publishing house of China in April.

A picture of President Kim Il-song standing on a lakeside is printed on the front cover of the book.

Carried on the front and back covers of the book are the propositions of President Kim Il-song "Revolutionaries, believe in the people and rely on them at all times and you shall always emerge victorious; if you are forsaken by them, you will always fail. Let this be your maxim in your life and struggle" and "The destiny of a nation can be saved only through the unity and struggle of all the forces that love their country and treasure their nation."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Palestinian Accord

SK0805084094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823 GMT 8 May 94

["Just Efforts of Arab People for Peaceful Solution of Mideast Problem"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered the question raised by KCNA in connection with the recent signing of an accord on autonomy by Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

He said:

"Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met in Cairo on May 4 and signed an accord on enforcing autonomy by Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

"The accord signed this time, a detailed working agreement to implement the declaration of principle on Palestine autonomy which was signed in September last year, is a result of the patient efforts of the Palestinian people to retake the lost land and restore their legitimate national rights.

"The master of the Palestinian problem is the Palestinian people.

"We respect the will and choice of the Palestinian people in settling the Palestinian issue and consider signing of the accord by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be their right.

"We hope the accord will be a basis of founding an independent state of Palestine and the first step for a fair and comprehensive solution to the Mideast problem.

"The Korean people will as ever actively support the just efforts of the Palestinian and Arab people for a peaceful solution of the Mideast problem including the Palestinian issue, standing on their side".

Daily Congratulates ANC on Victory in South Africa

SK0705050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 7 May 94

["Victory of Justice"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today congratulates the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) on its landslide victory in the recently held first ever all-race general elections in history in South Africa. Thus the election of Nelson Mandela as the first president of a democratic South Africa has become evident, it says, adding: This is a victory of the South African people and, at the same time, a common victory of the world progressive people and a victory of justice.

The article says:

The Korean people rejoice at the ANC's victory in the elections with the world progressive people.

With the ANC's victory in the elections the racist rule which had existed for centuries has been done away with and a new life of equality and democracy opened up in South Africa. Tens of millions of black people in the country have become able to exercise their rights as the masters of their own destinies, freed from racialist maltreatment and humiliation, persecution and suppression.

The South African people will successfully realize their aspirations and desire under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.

The Korean people sincerely wish their efforts to build a new South Africa will bear a fine fruit.

Vice Foreign Minister at Vietnamese Film Show

SK0605050794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Duong Chinh Thuc hosted a film show and a cocktail party at his embassy Thursday evening to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Dien Bien Phu battle.

Invited there were the vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Yang-kon, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il, Vice-Chairman of the State Education Commission Yi Kwan-su, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Chon Yon-ok, and other officials concerned.

The participants saw a Vietnamese documentary film.

Speeches were exchanged at the cocktail party that followed.

Lao Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives

SK0905113694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 9 (KCNA)—A high-level delegation of the Ministry of National Defence of Laos headed by Choummali Sai-ngason, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and minister of National Defence, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA], Vice-Marshal Kim Kwang-chin and other generals and officers of the KPA.

A ceremony for welcoming the delegation took place there.

Zairian Group Presents Gift to Kim Il-song

SK0605051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from Guillaume Purbuar Mputubala, general secretary of the Kim Chong-il Reflections Circle of Zaire.

The gift was handed to the Korean ambassador to Zaire on April 26.

Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK0605050594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Guillaume Purbauar Mputubala, general secretary of the Kim Chong-il Reflections Circle of Zaire.

The gift was handed to the Korean Ambassador to Zaire on April 26.

Kim Il-song Receives Gift From Peruvian Delegation

SK0705114794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru.

The visiting secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Alliance, Javier Pedro, handed the gift to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

SK0705114894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance of Peru.

The visiting secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Alliance, Javier Pedro, handed the gift to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Il-song Receives More Birthday Greetings

From Foreign Party Leaders

SK0705052394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings from party leaders of different countries on his birthday.

The messages were sent by Krishna Prasad Battaray, president of the Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party; Pyotr Simonenko, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party; Manuel Vargas Loureiro, chairman of the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal; Leonel Mario Da Alva, chairman of the Democratic Convergence Party and Reflexion Group and president of the National People's Assembly of Sao Tome and Principe; Youssef Amin Wali, general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party; Talal Hafun Ala Mai, general secretary of the People's Unity Party (Unionist) of Jordan; Kaled Bensmain, general secretary of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria; Hanial Beins, national leader of the Communist Party (Marxism-Leninism) of Canada; Virgilio Godoy, secretary general of the Independence Liberal Party of Nicaragua; Denzil Daglas, leader of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party; and Miguel Mejia, secretary general of the United Left Movement of Dominica.

The messages sent warmest congratulations to President Kim Il-song and wished him good health and a long life.

The messages expressed firm support and solidarity for the Workers' Party and people of Korea in their struggle for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

From Meetings Held Overseas

SK0705052294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages and letters from the participants in celebration meetings held in Corriverton, Guyana, Kalofer, Bulgaria, Weneba, Ghana, Antananarivo, Madagascar, and Lima, Peru, on the occasion of his birthday.

They say that President Kim Il-song has built independent socialism, brought great socio-economic changes and opened a new era of prosperity for the Korean nation by wisely leading the Korean revolution.

They note that thanks to the wise leadership and tireless activities of President Kim Il-song, the Korean people are leading a happy and creative life under the Korean-style socialist system centred on the popular masses and Korea has been turned into a powerful sovereign and independent state with the might of singlehearted unity which the progressive people of the world admire.

The messages and letters express full support and solidarity for the struggle of the Korean people to defend the sovereignty of the country from the aggression moves of the imperialists and achieve the cause of national reunification according to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation advanced by President Kim Il-song.

Letters to him were adopted at a symposium on President Kim Il-song and Korean-style socialism held in Amadora, Portugal, and a seminar on his work held by the Nepal Institute for Chuche Studies.

The messages and letters wish President Kim Il-song good health and a long life.

Communist Party of India Delegation Arrives

SK0805011494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) headed by Jyoti Basu, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the party and prime minister of the West Bengal state, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Kim Yang-kon, vice department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Shehkholen Kipgen, Indian ambassador to Korea.

Pakistani Parties Support Ministry Statement

SK0605001194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA)—Eight political parties and organizations of Pakistan including the National Party, the People's Democratic Party and the Pakistan organization for Afro-Asian people's solidarity issued a joint statement on April 24 supporting the April 20 memorandum of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that clarified the main obstacle to the solution of the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula and its background.

The statement sharply condemned the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for demanding a total inspection of the DPRK in a sinister attempt to stamp out its political system, ignoring the special position of the DPRK that suspended temporarily the effectuation of its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

"We are convinced that the DPRK Government is showing fidelity with regard to the nuclear policy and highly estimate the DPRK Government for sincerely implementing the DPRK-U.S. agreement and pushing ahead with nuclear development under the strict surveillance of the IAEA.

"We castigate the IAEA Secretariat and the UN Security Council for openly applying the double-standard to the nuclear issue under the baton of the United States," the statement said, and stressed: "We warmly hail the declaration of the great leader President Kim Il-song that the DPRK neither has nuclear weapons nor needs to manufacture them."

Russian Ambassador Hosts Reception on Army Day

SK0705052194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev hosted a reception at his embassy Friday evening on the founding anniversary of the Russian Armed Forces.

Invited there were Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, Lieutenant General Pak Song-won, and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and officials concerned.

Present on invitation were military attaches of various embassies in Pyongyang.

Speeches were exchanged at the reception.

Polish Envoy Hosts Reception To Mark Anniversary

SK0605050894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Polish Ambassador to Korea Ryszard Baturo hosted a film show and a cocktail party at his embassy Thursday evening on the occasion of the national holiday of the Polish people.

Present on invitation were vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Kim Chin-pom and other officials concerned.

The participants saw a Polish documentary film.

Then followed a cocktail party.

Delegation Returns From International Exhibition

SK0605001394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA)—A Korean delegation returned home today after attending the 22nd Geneva international exhibition of inventions, new technique and productions.

Gold medals were awarded to "bottom paint SZ 167-KA", "fingerprint access control system", "Meari Electret Condenser Microphone (ECM-319) for professional use" and "multifunctional inoculant for production of spheroidal graphite cast iron" and silver medals to "various gases absorbent" and "high immunogenic hepatitis b vaccine", inventions and new technology products entered by the DPRK at the exhibition.

The delegation was met at Pyongyang railway station by Choe Hui-chong, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, and officials concerned.

Meeting Marks Anniversary of World Peace Council

SK0605125094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1115 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—A meeting of peace champions and a photo exhibition were held in Pyongyang on May 6 under the sponsorship of the Korean National Peace Committee on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the World Peace Council.

Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and chairman of the Korean National Peace Committee, made a report, which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers estimated the role and achievements of the world peace council in the 45-year long endeavours to strengthen and develop the struggle of peaceloving people all over the world and elaborated on the major tasks to promote the world peace movement and ways for their fulfilment.

They highly appreciated the world peace council for expressing firm solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle to achieve the reunification of the country.

They strongly urged that the United States stop its unjustifiable rackets to put pressure on and stifle the DPRK and accede to dialogue and negotiation for a fair solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

Considering it necessary to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace one and make a peace arrangement in place of the present armistice body in order to remove the hostility between the DPRK and the United States, achieve reconciliation between them and ensure genuine peace and security on the Korean peninsula because the Military Armistice Agreement [as received] has been reduced to a mere sheet of paper and the Korean Armistice Commission [as received] turned into a nominal organisation by the unwarrantable acts of the United States, they expressed full support to the recent proposal of the DPRK Government concerning this.

An appeal to the peaceloving people of the world was adopted at the meeting.

It called upon all the people who value world peace and security to firmly unite as one irrespective of differences in political views and religious belief and turn out in the struggle to build an independent and peaceful, new world freed from domination and subordination, aggression and war.

It said:

After its foundation, the World Peace Council has made a lot of contributions to achieving national independence and social progress against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, averting war and ensuring a durable peace and security of the world.

We remember the fact that it expressed full support and solidarity for the struggle of the Korean people to defend the freedom and independence of the country against the armed invasion by the imperialist allied forces and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the divided country.

To resolve the Korean question in a peaceful way is urgent in ensuring a durable peace and security in Asia and the Pacific.

We urge the United States to abandon its hostile policy to stifle Korea, the old policy of the Cold War era, and observe the principles already agreed on between the DPRK and the U.S. sides and promptly accede to the proposed DPRK-USA dialogue and negotiation intended to solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful and fair way, replace the Korean armistice agreement with a peace one and make a new peace arrangement in place of the present armistice body.

We express the conviction that the world peace forces would continue to extend positive support and solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle to achieve the reunification of the country by means of confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as agreed upon by the North and the South of Korea.

Kim Il-song Meets Widow of Chinese 'Martyr'

SK0705111694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1108 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received a visiting relative to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Hu Zhenyi, widow of Chai Shirong, Chinese anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr, and her family members.

Present were were Kang Sok-sung, director of the the Party History Institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned.

President Kim Il-song looked back with deep emotions on unforgettable Chinese comrades-in-arms who fought shoulder to shoulder with him against Japanese imperialism, the common enemy of the Korean and Chinese peoples, under the uplifted banner of anti-Japanese struggle, highly appreciated their feats and had a warm conversation with the guests.

The guests presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for the guests.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table to Centenarian

SK0705113794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centenary birthday table to Kim Chang-yong residing in Onchon-up, Onchon County, South Pyongan Province. The birthday table was conveyed to her on May 6.

Born into a poor peasant family in the declining days of the feudal society of the ri dynasty, she was subjected to all sorts of hard toil under the Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

It was not until the liberation of the country that she could enjoy a life worthy of human being under the DPRK Government. During the fatherland liberation war she took an active part in the struggle for wartime food grain production and aided the People's Army both materially and morally. In the postwar period, too, she did her everything for the prosperity of the socialist homeland.

Now, she has a big family of more than 30.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today the number of those who enjoy longevity is on a steady increase thanks to popular policies.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table to Hero

SK0605055594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, sent the 70th birthday table to General Kim Ki-ok, a lecturer at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, who is the first hero of the Airforce in Korea.

Born a son of a mountain-side tiller before the liberation, he learned how to operate airplanes at the Pyongyang School after the country was liberated as he desired and grew to be a full-fledged flying commander.

In the fatherland liberation war, he brought down with his propeller plane seven enemy aircrafts including two B-29s and two jet planes and damaged four planes.

He became the first hero of the Airforce in Korea for his exploits in battles on July 15, 1950, twenty days after the start of the Fatherland Liberation War.

Anniversary of Kim Chong-il's 1974 Work Marked

SK0605001494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1532 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held at the People's Palace of Culture here today to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's historic May 7, 1974 work.

It was attended by Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], senior officials of mass media and journalists and men of the press.

In his report at the meeting, Hyon jun guk, editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union, said the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published a historic work on the building of socialist mass media on May 7, 1974 with an insight into the new requirements of the building of mass media of the WPK, so as to develop the mass media into a model of new-type mass media of chuche.

"In the work, the dear leader expounded with a scientific logic the character and mission of our party's mass media and their main tasks and principle of activity and laid down the policy of revolution in newspapers, news services and publications, so that an eternal cornerstone for our mass media to substantially contribute to the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche was laid and a revolutionary change took place in media activities," said the reporter.

"The dear leader," he continued, "said in the work that the mission of our party's media is to contribute to modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea, and clearly expounded the matters of principle in fulfilling it. As a result, our mass media have confidently advanced with a clear goal and orientation despite the complex situation."

The reporter further said:

"The question of the principles in the activity of our party's media was successfully solved, with the dear leader defining it in the work as the principles to regard chuche as the cornerstone, conduct press activities under the unified guidance of the party Central Committee and choose a correct seed and wage a speed campaign in press activities.

"The dear leader in the work laid down the policy of revolution in newspapers, news services and publications. This was a revolutionary policy which indicated a correct way for our mass media to take on true looks as mass media of chuche to meet the new requirements of the developing revolution."

Referring to the achievements in the fulfilment of the tasks set out in the work, the reporter said "one of the important achievements is that our mass media has become a revolutionary one with a strong chuche character."

"Our media fully accords with the interests of our revolution and people and their ideology and emotion and our specific conditions both in content and form."

The reporter said the mass media has played a big role in training all members of society into ardent communist revolutionaries of chuche type and powerfully arousing the masses in the efforts for the revolution and construction.

"The imperialists and reactionaries are viciously working to stifle our socialism," he said. "Our journalists and men of the press standing on the forefront of ideology must creditably discharge their duty and role, wielding the pen of revolution."

Yi In-mo Meets Trade Union Federation Officials

SK0705052494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, met chairmen of Primary Organisations of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, basic organisations of the federation, from different parts of the country.

He recalled with indignation that he was put to all tortures and maltreatment by South Korean fascist hangmen while spending 34 years in prison after being taken prisoner by the enemy during the fatherland liberation war. "It is because I fought, regarding the great general as my mental support that I could win defending my revolutionary constancy, refusing to recant my belief in this period," he stressed.

Saying the destiny of the Korean people and the future of the socialist homeland lie in trusting and following the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, he asked the chairmen to do their bit in rearing trade union members as loyal subjects with a strong faith.

Ninth Science, Technology Festival Held 3-6 May

SK0705111394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 7 (KCNA)—The 9th Central Science and Technology Festival took place in Pyongyang from May 3 to 6.

Published in the festival were over 800 scientific and technological papers which had been received with high appreciation in the festivals at factories, enterprises, counties, cities and provinces which were held from the end of last year to March this year.

These papers contain scientific and technological achievements in different sectors of the national economy including agriculture, light, coal and power industries and railway transport.

Highly appraised were Kim Chong-hwa, a researcher of the the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, who had obtained a new strain of big significance in increasing agricultural production and Choe Chong-nin, a room chief of the Institute of Animal Husbandry of the

Academy, who had made a success in his research, obtaining an improved strain of the cow.

Special awards went to many scientific and technological successes including the production of high-pressure cables, manufacture of a new pattern weaving machine, and the industrialisation of paper production by use of fibre obtained from waste water in the festival.

Present at the closing ceremony of the festival on May 6 were Alternate Politburo Member and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Choe Tae-pok, and officials concerned.

Scientists, Technicians Numbered at 1.73 Million

SK0605115894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 6 May 94

["One or More Technicians and Specialists Per 6 Heads of Working Population"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The number of technicians and specialists is one or more per six heads of the working population including workers, peasants, office employees and soldiers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

When Korea was liberated in 1945, an overwhelming majority of the adult population was illiterate. But Korea completely eradicated illiteracy by the spring of 1949, taking a long stride toward the civilized world.

The level of general knowledge of the working people went beyond that of the graduates from the senior middle school in the 1980s, taking the country as a whole.

The number of scientists and technicians is now 1.73 million in Korea which had only 12 of them at the time of liberation.

Sounds of bells of Korean alhphabet and adult schools for the elimination of illiteracy could be heard in Korea 45 years ago. But, today, the idea of lifting the level of cultural knowledge of all the members of society to that of the university graduate is near its goal.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK have always directed all-party, all-state efforts to the educational work for the future of the country and the destiny of the nation. Right after the liberation when the country was in a difficult and complicated situation, Korea discussed pencil production as the first agenda item of the North Korean provisional people's committee.

During the fatherland liberation war (1950-1953), a measure was taken to recall soldiers and send them back to universities. Study-while-working universities made their appearance in 1951 when the war was at its height.

In 1956 when the country's economic situation was difficult, the universal compulsory primary education system was enforced, which was followed by the universal compulsory secondary education system in 1958. In 1959, the most comprehensive and complete free education system came into force for school education, adult education and social education as a whole. The universal compulsory 9-year technical education was enforced in 1967 and the world's first universal 11-year compulsory education in 1972.

The state appropriations for education have increased by an average of 5.7 percent annually in the 1990s in an acute confrontation with the imperialist allied forces hell bent on stifling Korean socialism.

The level of knowledge of the working people has systematically risen under the socialist education system in which the state takes charge of the education of the entire people so that they can study free of charge all their life. Now all of them have the basic knowledge needed for higher education or the knowledge of the university graduate.

KCNA Reports Increase in Silk Production

SK0705002294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Silk production is increasing in Korea.

The Korean Silk Association overfulfilled its April plan by 5.7 percent, according to the data available.

The association fulfilled its first quarterly year plan ten days ahead of the schedule.

Korea with a long history of silk production is one of the famous silk production countries in the world.

Many large and small silk and silk-textile mills and workshops have been built in various places of the country. Among them are Pyongyang silk mill, Hamhung silk mill, Yongbyon, Pakchon and Kumya silk-textile mills.

Modern silk processing centres have been built to turn out 2,000 kinds of silk cloth, thread and clothes including Yaksan silk, brocade and Kuryong silk, special products of Korea.

Most of them are exported to foreign countries and are gaining favour at world market.

The export output value doubled in recent five years.

Especially, brocade took two gold medals at an international exhibition.

The prospect of silk production is very good in Korea.

In recent years silk production capacity greatly increased with the promotion of expansion projects and the introduction of modern equipment.

Joint venture with foreign countries is encouraged.

Mulberry fields are expanded year by year and breeds of silkworms and feeds are developed, providing favourable conditions for development of sericulture.

South Korea

IAEA Not To Send Inspection Team to DPRK

SK0605225794 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 6 May 94

[YONHAP from Vienna]

[Text] A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] said on 6 May that the IAEA would not dispatch to North Korea its inspection team to observe the changing of fuel rods at North Korea's nuclear reactor.

He said: The IAEA will not send its inspection team to North Korea because the letter North Korea recently sent to the IAEA does not provide any ground for the dispatch of the inspection team [chosadanul pagyonhalmanhan patangul chegonghaji anko isso] to North Korea.

DPRK Response 'Unsatisfactory'

SK0705010294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0055 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Berlin, May 6 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] received a North Korean message on Friday but its contents were deemed insufficient for the IAEA to send inspectors to observe the changing of fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon, spokesman Hans Meyer said.

Pyongyang sent the message in response to IAEA Director-General Hans Blix's letter to North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam urging the communist state to accept the agency's conditions for the presence of IAEA inspectors during the refueling process.

As of Friday, the IAEA had no information on whether North Korea had already changed nuclear fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor, Meyer said.

Meyer confirmed that the North Korean message from Foreign Minister Kim addressed to Blix came by telex Friday.

Based on the message's contents, however, the IAEA could not send inspectors to North Korea, Meyer said.

"The North Korean response to conditions (set by the IAEA) was unsatisfactory," he said. "And it did not provide grounds for the IAEA to send inspectors to North Korea."

The IAEA will study the Kim Yong-nam message in detail and take follow-up steps, he said.

Meyer added, however, that he did not know whether Blix would send another letter to North Korea.

Asked to confirm a North Korean Foreign Ministry statement that the country planned to go ahead and change the fuel rods and whether the work was already underway, Meyer said he had no information on these matters.

In his letter to Kim Yong-nam last Tuesday, Blix warned that if North Korea changed the fuel rods without an IAEA presence, it would constitute a grave violation of the nuclear safeguards agreement.

IAEA sources noted some progress in IAEA-North Korean negotiations, saying Pyongyang told the agency it was willing to allow additional inspections of a key radiochemical laboratory and maintenance work on equipment the IAEA installed last March.

But such headway means nothing if the problem of inspecting the fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor remains unresolved, they said.

Although IAEA observation of the refueling at the 5-megawatt reactor was not specifically mentioned in the statement issued by the U.N. Security Council president, the work constitutes "a core item" in the nuclear safeguards agreement.

Therefore, if the IAEA cannot witness the changing of the reactor's fuel rods, it will not be able to check the true nature of North Korea's nuclear program, diplomatic sources said.

The agency reportedly feels it has reached a dead-end in its negotiations with North Korea and that the United States must find a breakthrough in dialogue with Pyongyang, they said.

UN Action Favored if DPRK Denies Inspection

SK0705033894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0325 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government decided Saturday [7 May] that additional action by the U.N. Security Council against North Korea is unavoidable if Pyongyang does not accept by next week an IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) presence during the changing of fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor in Yongbyon.

The decision was made at a Unification and National Security Policy Coordination meeting presided over by new Deputy Premier and National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku.

"Our government position is that if North Korea presses ahead with changing the fuel rods by themselves, it would be unavoidable to take additional steps against the North," Yi said.

Emerging from the meeting, the deputy premier said North Korea has thus far maintained that it cannot allow the collection of samples from the reactor's spent fuel rods.

The meeting also decided to step up the existing system of cooperation with the United States, the United Nations and the IAEA with respect to the nuclear question.

As to when any additional action might come, Yi said not much time is left.

"The recent U.N. Security Council presidential statement has set mid-May as the deadline for North Korea's acceptance of additional IAEA inspections," he said.

Noting that the North Koreans' attitude remained somewhat ambiguous, the deputy premier said their position would become clear either this weekend or early next week.

Yi added, however, that if North Korea expressly promises to allow IAEA sampling of fuel rods at the 5-megawatt reactor, it could be taken as a sign of progress.

It is still unclear, he said, whether North Korea has begun to change the fuel rods on its own.

North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, in a message to the IAEA, said Friday his country could allow additional inspections of its nuclear facilities, including taking samples from a glove box at the key radiochemical laboratory in Yongbyon.

But Kim said he could not promise permission to collect samples from the fuel rods at the 5-megawatt atomic reactor, a source said.

PRC Said Mediating in DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK0905141494 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1223 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] A clue to resolving the North Korean nuclear issue is hard to come by because North Korea rejects fuel rods inspections. It has been learned, however, that China is playing an active mediating role.

Zhang Tingyan, Chinese ambassador to the ROK, visited Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong today and reportedly told him that the Chinese Government is actively engaged in persuading North Korea and requested that the Governments of the ROK and the United States deal with the North Korean claims with flexibility.

Ambassador Zhang Tingyan reportedly said that, according to what the Chinese Government has found out, North Korea has not replaced the fuel rods yet and asked that negotiations to resolve the nuclear issue continue. Ambassador Zhang Tingyan's visit to the Foreign Ministry was made at the request of the Chinese side so he would explain the contact between the North Korean and Chinese Governments.

Because it has been revealed that the Chinese Government is actively mediating between North Korea, the ROK, and the United States, negotiations over the nuclear issue, which have run into difficulties because of the North Korean refusal to replace and safekeep fuel rods, are likely to reach a compromise without dashing toward a catastrophe.

Meanwhile, the ROK and the United States are said to be planning to propose to North Korea that the matter of fuel rods inspection, which North Korea rejects, be solved at the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks without making issue of it any more at the present stage.

It has been reported that the ROK and the United States are planning to disclose their position to begin additional inspections and technological inspections on North Korea around the end of this week and to hold the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks immediately after that.

PRC Cites DPRK 'Pledge'

SK0905005394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0042 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 (YONHAP)—North Korean President Kim Il- song promised Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1991 that Pyongyang would not develop nuclear weaponry, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported from San Francisco on Monday.

The newspaper quoted a senior U.S. official as saying that Kim clearly told Deng his country had neither the intention nor ability to develop nuclear arms during a visit to China in October 1991. Based on this pledge, China is continuing to respect North Korea's position until it can be proven that Pyongyang broke its promise.

China notified South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, during his trip to Beijing last March, and the U.S. Government of Kim Il-song's nuclear promise. Beijing also informed the two nations that it would take decisive action if Pyongyang broke its promise, according to the paper.

Senior Chinese leaders told President Kim Yong-sam that they opposed international sanctions against North Korea and asked Kim to understand their position, MAINICHI said. The newspaper said the Chinese emphasized to South Korea's president that "if things that impair the honor of China happen, then China will take decisive action." The paper noted that China also explained its basic position to Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary for political and military affairs, during his recent visit to China. The Chinese leaders told Gallucci that it was too early to prepare sanctions against North Korea.

No DPRK-U.S. Dialogue Without Inspection

SK0805030594 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 8 May 94 p 1

[Report by Yi Sung-chol]

[Text] The ROK and the United States decided that if North Korea changes the atomic reactor fuel rods at its five megawatt-class atomic reactor without the presence of an International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection team, they will suspend the DPRK-U.S. dialogue.

At the high-ranking government and party policy coordination meeting held on 7 May, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said: "The issue of the IAEA's presence when North Korea changes its fuel rods is one of the preconditions to continue the DPRK-U.S. dialogue." He added: "The government is currently strengthening cooperation with allies, including the United States, for a smooth resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. We will work to make North Korea realize the seriousness of the current situation by using the DPRK- U.S. channel and the Chinese channel."

Developments in DPRK Nuclear Issue Reviewed

SK0705051394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0505 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—On April 28, North Korea offered to meet with the United States to discuss replacing the Armistice Agreement on the Korean war with a peace treaty.

A Foreign Ministry statement issued that day said the situation on the Korean peninsula required replacement of the cease-fire pact with a peace treaty to ensure "genuine peace and safety."

Pointing to the deployment of Patriot missile batteries in South Korea and "Team Spirit," the joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise, it charged that the United States has "completely renounced the Armistice Agreement it concluded with us in the name of the United Nations."

It added, "the Armistice Agreement has become an empty sheet of paper that can no longer guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula," taking note of the March 1991 appointment of a South Korean officer as chief U.N. delegate to the Military Armistice Commission, replacing the U.S. officer who had until then served as chief U.N. delegate.

It was on March 25, 1974, that Pyongyang first proposed a North Korea-U.S. meeting on replacement of the truce pact with a peace treaty.

The offer, then and now, is considered by North Korea watchers here to be part of a propaganda offensive against the South.

Naming only the United States as the other party to the peace talks is totally wrong, according to many North Korea watchers. South Korea not only took part in the truce talks through the commander of the U.N. Forces but also participated in the Geneva political talks on Korea held under a U.N. General Assembly resolution adopted on Aug. 28, 1953. North Korea must therefore name South Korea as a party to the talks if it really wants a workable peace treaty.

That is why the proposal has not been accepted by the international community over the past 20 years since North Korea first made it in 1974.

In January 1984 North Korea revised the proposal, offering a tripartite meeting, apparently recognizing what was wrong with its 1974 proposal.

The North Koreans' true intention behind the peace talks offer is to increase "the revolutionary forces in South Korea," North Korea watchers say.

In the above-mentioned Foreign Ministry statement, North Korea called for a non-aggression pact, removal of war threats, a ban on additional deployment of troops and arms, and a U.S. troop pullout from South Korea, with a view to neutralizing the South Korea-U.S. defense treaty to break the balance of military power on the peninsula in the interest of South Korea's "revolutionary forces."

It should also be noted that North Korea, when making the first peace offer in 1974, tried to cash in on the withdrawal of 20,000 U.S. troops from South Korea in 1971 under the 1969 Nixon doctrine calling on Asians to guarantee their own security. This new U.S. Asia policy also resulted in normalized relations between Washington and Beijing and Tokyo and Beijing.

Until its first peace offer to the United States in 1974, North Korea had insisted on an inter-Korean peace talks proposal made in June 1962, while launching campaigns to "increase the three great revolutionary powers" and to strengthen "the four great military lines" on the domestic front.

Pyongyang's peace offer to Washington is considered to have three aims, according to North Korea watchers.

The first is exclusion of the South from the peace talks so that the North can take the initiative in inter-Korean relations. This, the North may hope, will promote anti-government sentiment against Seoul and further Pyongyang's scheme to increase revolutionary forces in the South.

The second is neutralization of the South Korea-U.S. defense treaty and the last is diplomatic isolation of the South from the world community.

A peace treaty with the United States would justify the legitimacy of North Korea as the only sovereign state on the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang's second peace offer appears to be aimed at securing a third round of high-level North Korea-U.S. talks, as it came when the nuclear standoff remains unsettled. North Korea may want to raise the issue of establishing a peace treaty in the next meeting with the United States in a bid to divert the world's attention from the nuclear issue.

And if the third round of talks broke down, the Stalinist North would blame the United States for heightening tensions on the Korean peninsula and use this as an excuse to renounce the Armistice Agreement.

So the new peace offer, along with Pyongyang's withdrawal from the Military Armistice Commission, is regarded by North Korea watchers as psychological warfare against South Korea and the United States.

The peace proposal is just another tactical variation of the Stalinist country's strategy to unify the divided country under communism.

Russian Exporters Said Losing Money to DPRK

SK0805115294 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 May 94 p 2

[Text] Because North Korean enterprises did not pay Russian enterprises for their import of goods and because of their frequent severance of transactions with Russia, trade conflict between the two countries has been further aggravated. Quoting data provided from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an expert on North Korean affairs said on 7 May: Most Russian enterprises have smuggled their goods into North Korea in order not to pay an export tax. Therefore, North Korean enterprises have refused to pay them, citing the Russian enterprises' illegalities. The amount unpaid by the North Korean enterprises is over $20 million.

The total amount of Russian exports to North Korea last year reached approximately $200 million. Therefore, approximately 10 percent of Russia's total amount of annual exports to North Korea has been embezzled by the North Korean enterprises.

Regarding this, Russian enterprises have asked the North Korean Embassy in Moscow to cooperate on solving the problems. The Russian trade mission in Pyongyang has strongly called on the North Korean Government to pay the money owed.

The Russian Government has reorganized its laws applicable to foreign trade and urged its enterprises to be prudent in dealing with North Korean enterprises.

North Korea, which mainly imports oil, airplane fuel, cars, and mineral fertilizer from Russia, has reportedly cheated the Russian enterprises by placing illegal terms in invoices used with Russian enterprises.

Committee Formed on North Korean Loggers

SK0605012694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The government has organized a working-level committee to help resettle North Korean loggers brought here from Russia, officials said Friday.

The committee is chaired by Kim Si-hyong, chief assistant to the prime minister for administrative coordination, and includes the directors-general of related ministries.

The government plans to devise "comprehensive measures to support resettlement of the North Korean loggers" through the committee.

About 500 North Koreans are said to have escaped from Siberian logging camps and most of them reportedly hope to resettle in South Korea.

The government's support is expected to focus on helping them adapt to South Korean society and lead a stable life here.

The committee plans to develop programs for the loggers and study such problems as vocational training, employment and revision of related laws.

The directors-general serving on the committee are from the National Unification Board (NUB), the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and the Foreign, Home, Justice, Health and Social Affairs, Labor and Information Ministries, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) and the police.

DPRK Agriculture Technicians Seek To Defect

SK0805105794 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 94 8 May p 1

[Article by reporter Yang Sung-hyon entitled "Thirty North Korean Agricultural Technicians Refuse To Return Home—Hope to Defect to the ROK While Staying in Russia]

[Text] It has been confirmed that not only the North Korean workers who escaped from the Siberian logging site but 30 agricultural technicians North Korea has sent to Russia refused to respond to the summons of the North Korean authorities. They hope either to settle in Russia or defect to the ROK.

It has been learned that these North Korean agricultural technicians are living scattered in such areas as Moscow, Siberia, Sakhalin, and Uzbekistan.

Some of them have already visited the ROK Embassy in Russia, Korean Russians, or ROK businesses to express their desire to defect, a diplomatic source in Seoul said on 7 May.

The source said, "They are all specialized technicians who have been dispatched to Russia after meticulous screening by North Korean authorities. Therefore, they enjoy a better life economically and are treated better in Russia than the escaping North Korean Siberian loggers. For this reason, they pose a less urgent problem than the escaping loggers in our effort to resolve the problem for them."

In fact, many more of them than the loggers who are in the similar situation have married Russian women and hope to settle in Russia.

A considerable number of them are working at a Russian agricultural institute or research institute. Therefore, they will pose a far less problem than the loggers in respect of their settlement in Russia or defection to the ROK.

The source, however, said, "In view of their moves, living conditions, and relations with Russia, it is too early for the ROK Government to deal with the problem of assisting their defection and settlement in Russia." Therefore, the problem of these agricultural technicians may well be dealt with after the settlement of the problem of the escaping loggers. North Korea began dispatching the agricultural technicians to Russia in the latter half of 1980's to learn agricultural technology in order to improve North Korean agriculture and increase its food production.

However, some of these technicians made moves for defecting to the ROK and settling in Russia after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union. Therefore, North Korea began to summon them against their wishes.

The North Korean agricultural technicians dispatched to Russia are estimated to number about 150.

DPRK Uranium Plant Worker Reportedly Defects

SK0705030494 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] revealed on 7 May that three North Koreans—Kim Tae-ho, 35, work team leader of the Namchon chemical complex of the Ministry of Nuclear Energy; and brothers Hwang Kwang-chol and Kwang-il, 20 and 18, pitmen in a mine—escaped North Korea and have defected to the ROK.

The NSP said these three people will hold a news conference on their defection on 9 May at 1400 [0500 GMT] at the Press Center in Taepyongno, Seoul.

The NSP revealed that Kim Tae-ho was born in Jilin Province, China, and that he was the work team leader of the waste disposal sector of the Namchon chemical complex of the Ministry of Nuclear Energy, which is a uranium refinery plant. It also revealed that Hwang Kwang-chol worked as a pitman of Kungsing mine in Hoeryong city.

Discusses Plutonium Production

SK0905091494 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] North Korea has pushed ahead with the development of nuclear weapons since 1986 and now has a considerable amount of plutonium. This was revealed by Kim Tae-ho, who defected recently to the South, during a press conference held at the Seoul Press Center this afternoon. Before he defected, Mr. Kim was the head of a work team at the Sanamchon Chemical Complex, a uranium refinery plant under the North Korean Ministry of Nuclear Energy. Mr. Kim said North Korea began to develop nuclear weapons in 1986 and was able to produce plutonium in 1988.

Mr. Kim, who escaped from North Korea on 2 February because the North Korean authorities became aware of the fact that he misappropriated $5,000 in foreign currency, said plutonium has been continuously produced in the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. He claimed that although he does not know whether North Korea has a nuclear weapon, North Korea has attained a considerable technological standard for the development of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, brothers Hwang Kwang-chol and Hwang Kwang-il said they crossed the border to China last June because they were caught stealing food and lived a life of those who enter China illegally. Elder brother Hwang Kwang-chol, 20, said that because of the haphazard food rationing in North Korea, stealing food is a frequent practice there.

Development at 'Dangerous Point'

SK0905110994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—Despite its lingering economic difficulties, North Korea has invested heavily in uranium mining and production, a recent North Korean defector said here on Monday.

"I have no idea whether North Korea presently possesses nuclear arms because they have been developing them in utter secrecy. But, I can tell North Korea's nuclear development has reached a dangerous point," the defector, Kim Tae-ho, said in a press conference.

In the North, Kim, age 35, had worked at the Atomic Power Industrial Ministry. He was the head of a waste water disposal team at the Namchon Joint Chemical Industrial Co. run directly by the Atomic Power Ministry.

He said uranium ores are being mined at several mines including the one in Sunchon, South Pyongan Province: January industrial mine at Pyongsan, North Hwanghae Province: and Wolam mine at Kumchon, North Hwanghae Province.

"The uranium ores from these mines are shipped to two uranium refineries at the April Industrial Co. in North Pyongan Province and Namchon Chemical Co. in North Hwanghae Province," he said.

The re-refinery August Industrial Co. in Yongbyon, Kim said, extracts plutonium for nuclear weapons and performs work related to the production of uranium fuel rods.

He said that Namchon Chemical Co. has about 8,000 workers and turns out 80

-pure uranium.

"Many of the workers there are exposed to radioactivity, complaining of vocational diseases such as liver ailment, depilation and leukosis," the defector said.

Productivity at these workshops, however, is extremely low due chiefly to superannuated facilities, he said.

For instance, Kim said, uranium ores transportation is sluggish as many trucks are idled due to the lack of tires and mechanical troubles are reported often at mining equipment.

He said he was born in Jilin Province, northern China, because of which he had been discriminated against. "Besides, I was involved in a swindle case, which made me decide to defect to the South," he said.

Two youthful brothers who came to the South along with Kim Tae-ho spoke of terrible food conditions in the North.

Hwang Kwang-chol, 20, said that due to food shortage, women in childbed are often stricken with serious diseases and it is not rare babies fail to walk even at two due to malnutrition.

Hwang said his own mother is serving a 15-year prison term after she stole a bag of corn from a neighbor in 1987.

"Together with my younger brother, Kwang-il, 18, I crossed the Tuman River last June and had since been living in Yanji before we boarded a South Korean freighter with the help of an ethnic Korean in China," Hwang said.

The three North Koreans arrived in South Korea last Saturday.

DPRK Envoy Reportedly Returns From Finland

SK0705021294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 (YONHAP)—Kim Pyong-il, North Korean ambassador to Finland and half brother of Kim Chong-il, recently returned home, giving rise to speculation that something may have happened in Pyongyang, the SANKEI SHIMBUN reported in a report from Moscow Saturday.

Pyong-il, the son of Kim Il-song and his present wife, Kim Song- ae, arrived in Helsinki in early March as Pyongyang's new ambassador to Finland and presented his credentials to the Finnish president on March 18.

The SANKEI report said the junior Kim was just about to settle in at a newly purchased mansion when he abruptly flew back to Pyongyang on April 22. He has yet to return and take up his duties.

"His return home was in such a hurry that he didn't even bother to go through the required protocol of notifying the Finnish Foreign Ministry of his absence," the paper said.

Moreover, it said, his departure came several days before the Finnish president's annual reception for members of the diplomatic corps, an occasion which an ambassador, especially a new one, shouldn't have missed.

As Kim Pyong-il's absence drags on, Finnish papers have speculated on the reason for his return to Pyongyang, according to SANKEI.

One paper said Ambassador Kim's "secret-shrouded" return to Pyongyang might have been the result of a political conspiracy involving top North Korean leaders.

Another daily claimed Kim has been unable to resume his duties in Helsinki because of some unusual contingency in North Korea.

A source in the Finnish Foreign Ministry reportedly said he didn't know when Kim would come back to Helsinki. "We don't know if Ambassador Kim can return here at all," the source was quoted as saying.

The North Korean Embassy in Helsinki, fueling the speculation, is refusing to comment on the ambassador's abrupt return to Pyongyang, the SANKEI report said.

Some reports indicated that Pyong-il has been on bad terms with his half brother Chong-il, who is likely to succeed his aging father as North Korea's leader.

Finnish Daily Notes Kim's Absence

SK0705011694 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 May 94 p 2

[Text] Helsinki—North Korean leader Kim Il-song's second son Kim Pyong-il has been absent from his post as ambassador to Finland for two weeks, the daily HELSINGIN SANOMAT reported Thursday.

Confirmation was not available from the Helsinki Embassy.

The newspaper, Finland's biggest, said Kim Pyong-il left the country April 22 after serving as ambassador for about a month and the embassy had not announced when he would be back.

He handed his credentials to President Martti Ahtisaari [as received] late in March, the newspaper said, adding that experts considered the absence odd. "He left the country just a day or two before President Ahtisaari's dinner for the diplomatic corps. The once yearly dinners are occasions not to be absent from. They are seen as particularly important for new ambassadors," the paper wrote.

Prime Minister Chairs Meeting on DPRK Policy

SK0705091994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The government and the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) held a policy coordination meeting on Saturday to decide to continue efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear problem through dialogue.

The meeting, attended by Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok, DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil and other government and party officials, also decided to study measures to be taken when the efforts through dialogue fail, officials said.

The meeting confirmed the position that the government respects the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s decision on the technical issues of the inspection of the North Korean nuclear sites and observation of the replacement of fuel rod of the five megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon in North Korea.

But if North Korea replaces the fuel rod without observation of the IAEA, suspension of the North Korean-U.S. talks is inevitable, the meeting reaffirmed the position.

The government and the ruling party discussed another issue of the North Korean loggers.

The senior officials decided to have close consultation with the Russian Government on the North Koreans who escaped from the Siberian logging camps to solve the problem in an early date.

They will study ways to invite international organizations to intervene in the problem in an effort to prevent possible diplomatic trouble with Russia.

Meanwhile, the government and the ruling party will reject the North Korean proposal to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty with the United States alone, according to officials.

They reaffirmed that the Military Armistice Commission and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission should continue to exist.

Peace System Based on N-S 'Basic Agreement'

SK0905101694 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 9 May 94 p 1

[Text] As North Korea takes up offensives against the United States to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, the government has launched a program to map out concrete measures to settle this matter by taking it into the frame of the North-South Basic Agreement officially signed between the North and South on 14 December 1991.

A high-ranking government official on 8 May disclosed: "The majority opinion in relevant government officials and civilian experts holds that in the event that North Korea attempts to cripple the Military Armistice Committee or the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, their function could be transferred to the North-South Joint Military Committee stipulated in the North-South Basic Agreement."

It was also learned that the government has devised a plan to push ahead with the adoption of a separate agreement or a protocol between the North and South if North Korea insists on the legal termination of the state of armistice.

It was learned that even though there is no need to fully confront the North's attempt to unilaterally reduce the agreement to a scrap of paper, the government is studying ways to propose inter- Korean dialogue so as to discuss the system of North-South Basic Agreement.

As regards to this, the Foreign Ministry on 5 May held a first round of meetings in the presence of Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong, and major high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials. On 7 May, a second round of meetings was held to analyze North Korea's intent and discuss ways to counter it. Those who participated in the second round of meetings were Kim Kyong-won, former ambassador to the United States; Kim Tal-chung, professor of Yonsei University; Shim Song-pyong, professor of Kyonghui University; Yu Pyong-hwa, professor of Korea University; Yi Sang-u, professor of Sogang University; and Ha Yong-son, professor of Seoul National University.

A high-ranking official who took part in the meeting said: "Provision 5 in the first chapter of the North-South Basic Agreement adopted in December 1991 stipulates that the North and South should exert joint efforts to replace the present armistice state with the state of peace and that the two sides should abide by the present Military Armistice Agreement until the state of peace is achieved," and added that "a dominant opinion is that if the North-South Basic Agreement is invoked, the present armistice state could be replaced with a peace system."

The government plans to clarify its final stance after studying measures mapped out by the Foreign Ministry at a Unification and National Security Policy Coordination meeting.

Minister Advocates 'Adjusted' DPRK Policy

SK0905052794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku said Monday [9 May] the goals and pursuit of Seoul's North Korea policy should agree, though a flexible approach is necessary in dealing with pending inter-Korean problems.

In an article contributed to the government's weekly "KUKCHONG SIMMUN" issued Monday, he added that inter-Korean relations have a double structure of confrontation on the one hand and dialogue for a gradual and peaceful movement toward reunification on the other.

"Policy consistency must be maintained, but policy direction should be adjusted and adapted to a new situation and a new way of pursuing the policy should be developed," he said.

The current efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem peacefully and through dialogue should be continued, and the government should deal with the issue through increased cooperation with the international community, he added.

South Red Cross Urges North To Resume Talks

SK0905025994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) urged North Korea Monday to allow exchange visits by elderly parents with South Korea and to resume the South-North Red Cross talks.

Kang Yong-hun, president of the South Korean Red Cross, said in an address at a ceremony marking "World Red Cross Day" that exchanges of hometown visits by aged parents between South and North Korea should be realized as soon as possible.

"And the South-North Red Cross talks should be resumed at an early date," Kang said.

The 10th main talks of the South and North Korean Red Cross were held in December 1985. North Korea rejected the 11th talks, urging the South to stop staging "Team Spirit," the annual joint South Korean-U.S. military exercise.

An estimated 10 million people in South Korea have family members in the North who they were forced to leave behind during the 1950-53 Korean war.

"North Korea should keep its word, first of all that it will return crew members of the 'Tongjin-ho,' a South Korean fishing ship," Kang said.

Son Song-pil, chairman of the North Korean Red Cross, sent a telephone message to the South on Jan. 21, 1987, saying the crew of the Tongjin-ho would be returned.

The Tongjin-ho and its 12 crew members were captured by North Korean ships on Jan. 15, 1987, about 28 miles northwest of Paengnyong Island in the West Sea.

Kang emphasized that to solve these problems, consultations between the South and North should be realized as soon as possible, urging Pyongyang to give a positive answer.

The South Korean Red Cross is studying ways to propose the 11th main talks of the South-North Red Cross after waiting for Pyongyang's reaction.

DPRK Students' English Test Scores Announced

SK0705011094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The average TOEFL (Test of English for International Communication) score of North Korean students is 479 out of a possible 700, compared with 504 for their South Korean counterparts, according to the Korea-American Education Committee that administers the English test here.

South Korea ranked 118th among 162 countries in terms of average score of students taking the educational testing service's TOEFL between July 1989 and June 1991 in order to study in the United States or Canada.

Among the testees, totaling 1,178,193 during the period, were 795 North Koreans.

It is the first time the North Koreans' TOEFL scores have been made public. They are said to have taken the test in Eastern Europe because there is no test administrator in their country.

During the two years, 77,004 South Korean students took the test, recording an average of 504, far below the world average of 529.5.

The country with the highest average was the Netherlands with 605 and Japan had the largest number of examinees with 225,939.

The top 10 average list was led by 605 in the Netherlands, 594 in Denmark and Trinidad and Tobago, 593 in Belgium, 592 in Austria and Singapore, 590 in Sweden, 589 in (West) Germany, 585 in Britain, and 583 in Zambia.

By continent, Europe stood out with an average of 560, followed by America with 544, the Pacific with 523, Asia with 520, Africa with 518 and the Middle East with 488.

Among Asian countries, Singapore posted the highest average of 592 trailed by the Philippines with 565, China with 531, Pakistan with 521, Vietnam with 511, Taiwan with 503, Cambodia with 498 and Japan with 484.

Among the 1.17 million students that took the test, Asians accounted for the lion's share of 73.9 percent.

By country, Japan had the most testees with 19.2 percent (225,939), followed by China (12.3 percent), Hong kong (9.1 percent), Taiwan (9 percent) and South Korea (6.5 percent).

More Reports on Japanese Minister's Remarks

Tokyo Gives Explanation to Seoul

OW0705050794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 KYODO—Japan's ambassador to South Korea met with Korea's foreign minister Saturday [7 May] to try to defuse some of the outrage over remarks by Japanese Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano about Japan's role during World War II.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu in a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Toshio Goto, conveyed to the Japanese Government the concerns and regrets that Seoul has over Nagano's remarks, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said. Goto told Han that the official position of the Japanese Government will be taken after Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata returns home Saturday evening from an overseas trip. The ambassador also said that he received an instruction from the Japanese Government to convey to Seoul that Japan takes the official stance that South Korea and Japan must build future-oriented relations while looking squarely at the past.

Han, in responding to the ambassador's remarks, said that Japan should take proper action to prevent any recurrence of the matter and heal the wounds of the past, adding, "South Koreans got hurt seriously and expressed indignation over the remarks." On Friday, Han summoned the ambassador to the Foreign Ministry and expressed "shock" and deep regrets over Nagano's remarks, demanding that Japan clarify the remarks and present a clear position.

In Tokyo, the Japanese justice minister offered Saturday to resign after setting off a flurry of international condemnation with his remarks that Japan was not an aggressor during World War II and the 1937 Nanjing Massacre was a fabrication.

Following the invasion of the then Chinese capital of Nanjing in December 1937, Imperial Japanese Army troops slaughtered more than 300,000 Chinese civilians, according to Chinese estimates. Japanese historians, however, tend to cite lower estimates. According to estimates given at the war crimes tribunal in Tokyo, about 42,000 civilians were killed in Nanjing and more than 100,000 civilians and prisoners of war were killed in the vicinity over the following six weeks.

Also on Friday, South Korea lodged a strong protest with Japan over Nagano's separate remark terming "comfort women" as licensed prostitutes. Yu Byung-woo, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, summoned Japanese Embassy official Hiroshi Shigeta on Friday and expressed deep regrets over Nagano's remarks on the "comfort women," whom the Japanese military took to front line brothels during World War II, spokesman Chang said.

Nagano made the remarks in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Tuesday. Historians estimate that as many as 200,000 women, most of them from the Korean Peninsula, were taken to wartime brothels to provide sex as "comfort women," as they were euphemistically called, for Japanese soldiers.

Official Voices Regret to Envoy

SK0705023394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government summoned Japanese Minister to Seoul Hiroshi Shigeta and protested Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano's description of comfort women, who were forced to supply sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II, as "licensed prostitutes," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Chang Ki-ho said Saturday.

The ministry's Director-General of Asian Affairs, Yu Pyong-u, called in Minister Shigeta and expressed regret over Nagano's remark, which runs contrary to the Tokyo government's official position on comfort women stated last Aug. 8.

Nagano earlier enraged South Korea and other Asian countries by claiming in an interview with the MAINICHI newspaper that Japan was not an aggressor in the war and that the "rape of Nanjing," in which Japanese soldiers massacred thousands of Chinese civilians, was "a hoax."

In a separate interview with KYODO News Service, he said comfort women were licensed prostitutes and their use by Japanese soldiers therefore could not be considered an insult to women or discrimination against Koreans.

Minister Shigeta said he would report Seoul's protest to Tokyo.

Historians say some 200,000 women, mostly Koreans, were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers in front-line brothels between 1932 and 1945. Tokyo has formally admitted government involvement in running the brothels.

Official Hails Hata's Decision

OW0705151494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 KYODO—A high-ranking South Korean Foreign Ministry official Saturday [7 May] night hailed Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's decision to replace Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano for his controversial remarks over the 1937 Nanjing massacre and Japan's role during World War II.

Yu Pyong-u, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, told reporters, "I greatly appreciate the courage and beliefs of Prime Minister Hata, who made a severe choice. I expect such a posture will turn out to be a driving force for improving South Korea-Japan relations." Yu added, "It is difficult for both the victim and the perpetrator to overcome the past."

Earlier the same day Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Toshio Goto met with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu to try to defuse some of the outrage over Nagano's remarks.

Government Praises Dismissal

SK0805055294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0530 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 8 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Foreign Ministry praised dismissal of Japanese Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano Sunday, calling it "appropriate" for building new South Korea-Japan relations.

"The dismissal of Minister Nagano was the result of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's determination and courage," a Ministry official said in a commentary, "it was an action reflecting Prime Minister Hata's awareness and efforts to build new South Korea-Japan relations."

Nagano resigned Saturday after his remarks on Japan's role in World War II ignited flurry of protest from Asian neighbors. He claimed Japan was not the aggressor in the war but was only trying to liberal Asian colonies from Europe.

He also belittled the rape of Nanjing as a made-up story.

Envoy Stresses Importance of Ties With Japan

SK0705062094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto told Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu Saturday morning that the Hata cabinet's view of history mirrors that of the previous Hosokawa cabinet.

Conveying the Japanese response to Seoul's official protest against remarks made by Justice Minister Shigeto Nagano in defense of Tokyo's role in World War II, Ambassador Goto said he had been instructed to clarify that the Hata cabinet attaches importance to promoting a future-oriented bilateral relationship and an honest view of history, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said.

Goto told Han he had conveyed Seoul's concern to his home government, adding that Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata would take appropriate action on Nagano's remarks upon returning from Europe Sunday. Tokyo will notify Seoul of any action, he added.

Minister Han told the ambassador that the justice minister's remarks had hurt and angered Koreans and that the Japanese Government should move to heal this hurt and prevent the recurrence of such remarks, Chang said.

Seoul, Japanese Shipbuilding Figures Compared

SK0705023494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Korean shipbuilders, even though they have won fewer ship orders than their Japanese rivals this year, are excelling in terms of price per tonnage of ships ordered, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said Saturday.

In January-March, Korean shipbuilders received orders for 1,011,000 tons at 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, amounting to 1,196 dollars per tonnage.

Japanese shipbuilders received orders for 2,969,000 tons at 3.06 billion dollars for 1,032 dollars per tonnage.

With orders received in April added, Korean shipbuilders posted 1,299 dollars per tonnage in the first four months, while the data for Japanese shipbuilders in April are not available yet.

Korean shipbuilders, who secured enough orders for the coming two years already last year, have sought to win relatively more profitable orders since the turn of the year, while their Japanese competitors have employed a low-price strategy.

At the price per tonnage, Korea topped Japan by 837 dollars to 704 dollars in 1990; however, Korea lagged behind Japan with 1,023 dollars to 1,130 dollars in 1991, and with 1,143 dollars to 1,513 dollars in 1992.

Last year, Korean shipbuilders received orders for 9,519,000 tons at 7.35 billion dollars for 772 dollars compared with 1,231 dollars for Japanese shipbuilders.

Inquiry Begun on Death of Businessman in China

SK0905063494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry said Monday it has instructed the South Korean Embassy in Beijing to make a thorough inquiry into the slaying of a South Korean businessman in China that was reported in the local media over the weekend.

Ministry officials said they had ordered the embassy in China to obtain information on the incident in which So in-sok, 53, a resident of Cheju Island, was reportedly killed by ethnic Koreans in Changchun city, Jilin Province, which he was visiting on business.

A local daily has quoted So's relatives as claiming that So was stabbed to death by second-generation Koreans living in Changchun who tricked him into coming to Changchun and robbed him of 10,000 U.S. dollars before stabbing him to death. So had been running a trading company in Harbin city, Heilongjiang Province, since May last year when he was invited to Harbin by his two brothers who run a Korean restaurant there.

Ministry officials said So's kin had requested that it intervene in the case, stressing they plan to act after learning all relevant details.

However, they said, "We do not think the incident resulted from any structural problem in bilateral relations."

Emphasizing that the incident may have been accidental, the Ministry officials hoped the case would serve as a warning for those wishing to travel to China.

President Congratulates President-Elect Mandela

SK0905104994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1036 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam on Monday cabled felicitations to President-elect Nelson Mandela of South Africa on his victory in the recent presidential election.

In the message, President Kim said he was paying respect to the president-elect for his distinguished leadership in bringing about a democratic government by abolishing apartheid through South Africa's first multiracial free election.

"Your Excellency's unswerving struggle for democracy culminated in such brilliant achievements which, I believe, will also be very much conducive to the efforts for democratization in other African nations," the message said.

Foreign Sailors Allowed To Disembark, Embark

SK0905130994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1145 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The government has liberalized disembarking and embarking in the country by foreign seamen including Korean-Chinese crews, the maritime and port administration reported on Monday. An official of the administration said foreign seamen can now disembark at South Korean ports with short-term visas only.

In the past, Korean-Chinese seamen were prohibited from disembarking in the country in fear that they may illegally find jobs while landing. To facilitate the new step, the government has prepared a guideline for the issuance of visas to foreign seamen for implementation retroactive to May 1. It replaces the guideline for the issuance of visas to Chinese seamen.

Presently a total of 951 foreign seamen work at Korean-flag freighters and fishing boats.

Ministry of Trade Announces Eased Export Rules

SK0905125794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—Short-term credits for exports worth up to 20,000 U.S. dollars will no longer be subject to government approval, regardless of whether they are made on a documents-against-acceptance or payment basis, starting next year.

Under the eased trade rules announced by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy on Monday, exports and imports of goods worth up to 10,000 dollars—instead of the current 5,000 dollars—will be exempt from after-export and -import controls on traders regarding whether they meet the conditions set down in the export and import permits.

At present, only letter of credit-based exports of goods worth up to 20,000 dollars can be made without the government's approval.

Documents-against-acceptance and payment bills are means of receiving payment for export shipments: While the former requires the delivery of shipping documents to importers when they accept the bill of exchange, the latter demands the handing over of documents in exchange for payment of the bill.

The new rules also provide that exports on a sight-bill basis, that is, a bill of exchange payable when presented to the importer, shall be made without a government permit, regardless of the exports' amount.

Exporters of industrial plants and machinery will be allowed to acquire necessary materials and equipment locally in the importing countries and be exempt from the requirement to contribute to the export promotion fund.

Moreover, imports of research and development equipment in relatively small demand can be made from any market. At present, importation of all research and development equipment from certain markets is prohibited.

Trade Ministry Reports on Export Increases

SK0905025394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's total exports are likely to surpass Taiwan's this year for the first time in six years with Korea recording relatively stable export increases over the past years, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said Monday.

South Korea exported 19.95 billion dollars worth of goods during the first quarter this year while Taiwanese exports hit 20.1 billion dollars, according to the Ministry.

Ministry records, however, show that South Korea recorded a 9.8- percent increase in exports during the period while Taiwan posted a mere 0.4-percent rise.

South Korea has recorded export increase rates exceeding 7 percent since 1991. In particular, it has posted increase rates of more than 10 percent every month this year except for February, according to the Ministry.

The growth rate of Taiwan's exports, in the meantime, has leveled off, declining from a high of 13.3 percent in 1991 to 7 percent in 1992, 4.3 percent in 1993 and then to just 0.4 percent during the first three months of this year, the Ministry said.

South Korea has lagged behind Taiwan in exports since the 1980s. The only exception was 1988, when South Korea shipped out 60.7 billion dollars worth of goods compared with Taiwan's 60.5 billion dollars.

"The Taiwanese export structure, composed mainly of light- industry products, faces limitations due to the stiff wage increases nowadays," said one Ministry official.

"The situation will reverse toward the end of this year unless something happens because South Korea shows brisk export increases in the heavy and chemical industries where Taiwan is weak," said the official.

South Korea took second place in the first-quarter export increase rate competition among the four newly industrializing economies, with a rate of 9.8 percent followed by Hong Kong (8.6 percent) and Taiwan (0.4 percent), according to the Ministry. Singapore came first with 15.3 percent.

Yi Pyong-tae Returns From Japan, Russia, Germany

SK0705014494 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 May 94 p 3

[By staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae yesterday returned home amid mixed appraisal on his first foreign visits that took him to Japan, Russia and Germany.

During the 11-day overseas tour, Yi held meetings with his counterparts and ranking government officials to discuss mutual concerns with a particular emphasis on military exchanges and security issues, including the knotty North Korean nuclear problems.

Of particular note was that Yi was the first defense minister ever to visit the three countries. Yi took office last December.

He made the significant foreign visits in line with the government policy to set up firm security relations with the surrounding nations following his April 20 meeting with the United States Defense Secretary William Perry he had just before embarking on the overseas trips.

"Yi's visits have significant meaning in that they were timed with the rapidly changing security situation surrounding the Korean peninsula," a ministry official said.

In Japan, Yi met former Defense Agency Director Kazuo Aichi and agreed to expand military exchanges, mainly between military personnel.

They reached agreement on the exchange of port calls by navy vessels carrying cadets of the naval academies, promising to realize the visit by the Korean side within the year.

They also signed a pact for the prevention of accidental collision of military aircraft by notifying in advance the other of flight plans in areas adjacent to open seas. [sentence as published]

The visit to Japan was evaluated to have important historical meaning in that he paved the way for the military cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo that has been regarded as a "taboo" because the people still harbor bitter feelings for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea.

But, it lost steam since it was made in the middle of the political chaos in the Japanese government without being able to form a new cabinet after Morihiro Hosokawa resigned as prime minister, military observers say.

After a spell of confusion over his visiting schedule Yi managed to meet Aichi who was replaced later.

In Russia, Yi signed with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev a 1994- 95 letter of intent for the promotion of military exchanges.

The two ministers agreed to upgrade the military exchange level over that in 1993, promising to realize mutual visits by ranking military leaders, with Grachev's visit to Seoul slated for sometime this year.

The two reportedly discussed the issues regarding the Russian proposal to provide South Korea with military weapons to pay off the $1.4 billion it owes for economic assistance.

But the ministry officials declined to confirm it, saying the matter is still under consideration.

The two ministers shared the view that the North Korean attempt to develop nuclear weapons poses a serious threat to the peace of the global community as well as in Northeast Asia.

In this vein, the North's nuclear ambition should be deterred under any circumstances and Pyongyang should return to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) immediately to carry out its duty as a responsible member of the international community, they agreed.

The outcome of the Yi's visit to Russia was hailed as successful as it placed a psychological burden on the North and laid the groundwork for military cooperation between the Cold-War foes.

But Yi came under fire for "wasting time without efficient schedules from April 28 to May 3 which included weekend days and Russian Easter day on May 2," the observers maintained.

Yi focused his efforts on ensuring procurement of Germany's state-of-the-art military technology. But his bids seemed to have failed due to Bonn's cautious attitude.

Yi and his German counterpart Volkere Ruhe adopted a joint announcement pledging further military exchange, which the ministry greeted as a momentous result, as it was the first joint announcement made with non-NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries

Chongukyonhap Suit Against President Dismissed

SK0605064794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0616 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The Seoul district civil court on Friday dismissed a defamation suit filed by Chongukyonhap, or the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification, against President Kim Yong-sam.

Judge O Se-ip threw out the suit by the alliance, which was seeking 300 million won in compensation from the president for alleged damages caused by Kim's description of it as an organization sympathetic to communism during the presidential election campaign in 1992.

"The alliance, as an unincorporated association, is not entitled to bring a civil suit," O said.

"Even though the alliance had the outward appearance of being an organization with a name, an organizational network and operational functions, it could not be a plaintiff in a civil suit because it was not incorporated as an association," he said.

The alliance had accused Kim Yong-sam of "wrongly damaging" its reputation by describing its member organizations as followers of North Korean President Kim Il-song's "chuche" ideology.

The alliance filed the suit on Jan. 12, 1993.

Anniversary of Kwangju Uprising Commemorated

SK0905032194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—On May 18, 1980, the people of Kwangju rose up against a group of Army officers who seized power for what was to become the Fifth Republic, leading to hundreds of citizens being killed or injured in clashes with the Army.

"The May 18 Kwangju Democratization Movement" marks its 14th anniversary this year with a civil movement in place to shed a new historical light on the tragic incident.

As part of the movement to paint a true picture of the incident, dissident groups and some opposition lawmakers are moving to file a criminal suit against former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and others who allegedly led the Army's suppression of the Kwangju uprising, apparently encouraged by the Kim Yong-sam government's efforts to "re-evalutate historical incidents."

These groups formed in March "the national committee looking into truths of the May 18 uprising and upholding the uprising's spirit" to prepare programs marking the incident's 14th anniversary.

The committee is comprised of over 300 members representing religious, political, academic and journalism circles as well as victims of the incident, and the co-chairmen include Christian pastors Kang Sin-sok and Kim Sang-kun and Rep. Kim Won-ki of the opposition Democratic Party.

The committee will hold memorial services on May 12 for those killed in the uprising at Kwangju's Mangwoltong cemetery, where they now lie in peace, to avoid crowds of visitors on the anniversary day.

On May 13, the committee will hold a press conference in Seoul to demand judicial action against former Presidents Chon and No and others accused of killing and injuring Kwangju residents during the uprising.

It will also call on the government to delve into the truth behind the incident, saying President Kim Yong-sam's civilian government has not yet shed a full light on the tragedy.

After the press conference, representatives of the committee will visit the public prosecutor's office to file a criminal suit against 34 persons accused of being responsible for the deaths and injuries, including former Presidents Chon and No, together with a petition signed by Chong Tong-nyon and 319 other victims for judicial action against the 34.

Rep. Chong Sang-yong of the opposition Democratic Party, who sits on the committee, says shedding a new historical light on the May 18 Kwangju democratization movement should entail punishment of those responsible for the tragedy.

The committee will then hold an academic conference in the National Assembly on May 14 to re-evaluate the historical significance of the Kwangju democratization movement and divulge the "fictitiousness" of the Kim Yong-sam government's probe of the Army's suppression of the movement.

The conference will also deal with the issue of punishing those responsible for the armed suppression of the uprising, a committee official says.

The national committee will focus its 14th anniversary programs on a historical re-evaluation of the Kwangju democratization movement, with a view to giving it a proper position in history, another committee official says.

Seoul To Continue National Security Measures

SK0805030094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to go ahead with military improvement and exercise plans in a change of stance from when Seoul wanted to avoid any act that could provoke North Korea, government sources here said Sunday.

Schedule for deployment of Patriot missiles and Apache helicopters, for example, will proceed as planned, and so will South Korea-U.S. military maneuver "Team Spirit" and arms improvement projects, they said.

These plans would change, as Seoul said, if North Korea returns to negotiations with South Korean Government and if the negotiations make progress.

But Seoul will separate these plans from the ongoing nuclear talks, the sources said.

South Korea announced in March that it will no longer demand inter-Korean dialogue as a condition to high-level talks between North Korea and the United States. It was then that the government decided to sever the link between the military plans and the nuclear problem, they said.

"It's true that we did try to avoid provoking North Korea as much as possible," said one official, "But despite such efforts, North Korea hasn't given up its nuclear program. It's our policy to pursue necessary security measures without linkage to the nuclear negotiations. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Article Reviews Defense Industry Development

SK0905095194 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 12 May 94 pp 16-17

[Article by reporter Kim Pang-hui: "10 Years of Backward Movement Owing to Purge"]

[Text] The U.S. military technological assistance team [TAT], composed of eight U.S. Army generals and civilians, visited the ROK in 1985. The advice given by this team dispatched by the U.S. Defense Department, after touring ROK domestic defense industries for a few days, was indeed shocking. The team asserted that the ROK should take its hands off the defense industry field because it had no competitive power.

The team also noted that the United States could "consider" lending to the ROK Government part of the funds required to purchase defense industry facilities and to abolish them. Paek Yong-hun, president of the Korea Defense Industry Academic Society, who guided the team's tour on that occasion, said that the time when this advise was given could be described as a moment when domestic defense industries were nearly withering [kosa].

The ROK's defense industry has been fostered in disregard of economic logic, which was used as the only assessment standard by the U.S. TAT. The 21 January 1968 incident [North Korean guerrilla unit's raiding of presidential offices] and the "Nixon doctrine" in 1969 were the events that boosted the development of the ROK's defense industry.

Since then, President Pak Chong-hui urged relevant areas to independently develop weapons for which the ROK had been entirely dependent upon the United States in the past. For this, the Agency for Defense Development [ADD] was established in 1970. President Pak Chong-hui and O Won-chol, second senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, who led the development of the defense industry, linked the defense industry development plan with a strategy to develop the heavy chemical industry. They also extended enormous financial, tax, and real estate special favors to the defense industry sector.

As soon as President Chon Tu-hwan came to office, however, the brakes were applied to the policy of strongly pushing for the development of the defense industry. He did not think highly of the defense industry's domestic capabilities for research and development and did not sympathize with such necessity. His antipathy was clearly expressed through a large-scale dismissal of ADD members. Members of this organization, which led the development of domestic weapons at that time, numbered about 3,000. However, 839 were dismissed first, and soon afterward the number of dismissed members increased to 1,400.

Most of the dismissed researchers were the scientists who were engaged in the development of missiles, who President Pak personally led with special interest. President Chon used as a pretext for the dismissal the fact that the ROK-made missile, which was developed with over 100 billion won each year, was merely a reproduction of the U.S. Niky Hercules missile.

The reason for President Chon Tu-hwan's directive to dismiss the ADD researchers can be summarized into following categories: First, Kim Chae-ik, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, who was called the "economic president" at that time, exerted great influence on the dismissal. He abolished the position of second senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, who was in charge of the heavy chemical industry and defense industry, and openly criticized the excessive investment in the defense industry sector. Some people also believe that President Chon Tu-hwan was paranoid about the status of this research institute, which directly communicated with President Pak without going through the military chain of command.

On the other hand, most of the victims of the large-scale dismissal believed that the United States instigated this "large- scale purge." They pointed out that when President Pak was in office, the United States was nervous about and interfered with the ROK development of nuclear weapons and guided missiles. A degree- holding researcher who was dismissed at that time stressed: No matter what the reasons may be, the large-scale dismissal forced the ROK defense industry technology to move backward 10 years. No one can deny this.

Since then, the defense industry was treated unkindly throughout the Fifth Republic. Nevertheless, it was difficult for our government to fully accept the advise of the U.S. TAT that the ROK's defense industry should be completely rooted out. This being the case, a compromise plan was put forward in the form of ROK-U.S. defense industry cooperation. In other words, the ROK was to be incorporated with U.S. defense industry firms, which gained control of the world's defense industry markets, as one of their sub-contractors, instead of competing with them.

Trading on Korean Stock Exchange Reported

SK0705062294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Led by blue-chip issues, the bull run at the Korean stock exchange pushed share prices near the 940-point mark this week.

The all-share composite stock price index ended the week at 936.41, up 27.69 points or 3 percent from a week earlier amid heavy trading.

Securities experts predict a bullish market this month, noting the purchase ratio of institutional investors has hit 46 percent and daily trade turnover is surpassing 1 trillion won (1.2 billion U.S. dollars) these days.

The week started off on a strong and healthy note thanks to both high- and low-cost shares. The leading index was up 10.54 points from the weekend to close at 919.26 Monday.

Advancers more than doubled retreaters, 528 to 241, with 175 hitting the daily permissible ceiling as 40 million shares changed hands, the most active trading in a month.

Amid a hectic tug-of-war between selling and buying, the composite index lost 1.71 points to finish at 917.55 Tuesday.

Issues of Hyundai affiliates attracted investment on expectations of a reconciliation between the business giant and the government after the group's honorary chairman, Chong Chu-yong, announced his retirement from active business management.

The index started Wednesday with a gain of 10 points during the morning session based on high hopes for improved market supply and demand, but profit-taking and anxiety put a brake on the bull run.

The index instead stopped at 922.33, up 4.78 points on heavy trading of 49.9 million shares.

Blue-chip issues emerged as popular choices again in the Friday session, pushing the index up near 930 points. The market was closed on Thursday for children's day, a national holiday here.

The composite index marched up 5.51 points to reach 927.84, due to the popular issues of Daewoo Electronics and Goldstar.

Medium- and small-sized issues easily pushed the index above 930 Saturday despite hectic profit-taking. It ended the week up 8.57 points at 936.41 as 30.1 million shares changed hands during the half-day session.

Foreigners' Purchase of Stock Exceeds Sales

SK0705035094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Foreigners have done more buying than selling in the Korean stock market since last week, securities sources said Saturday.

Foreigners bought shares worth 176.3 billion won and sold 127 billion won in stocks for a net purchase of 49.3 billion won between April 24 and Wednesday.

During the 10 days, they recorded net sales only on April 26 at 1.3 billion won and on May 2 at 6.3 billion won.

In March, foreigners' net sales totaled 184.2 billion won and in the first 23 days of April, the figure came to 56.9 billion won.

Foreigners appear to be buying stocks again in response to reports of conspicuous signs of economic recovery and the perception that prices in the Seoul bourse have bottomed out.

Samsung Group 'Tense' About Car Industry Plans

SK0905062594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0535 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The Samsung business group is reportedly tense about potential government disapproval of the group's advancement into the car industry.

The country's biggest business group is poised to submit its contract on technology cooperation with Nissan of Japan to the government. If Samsung wins state approval, it can jump into the automaking industry.

Samsung group chairman Yi Kon-hui suddenly postponed his Southeast Asian tour on Sunday and Samsung heavy industries officials held an emergency meeting during the weekend to study the government's possible moves.

"The government had hinted that it wanted us to give up our automaking project several times and Chairman Yi's postponement of his overseas tour must have something to do with that," a Samsung executive said.

Senior government officials, offering their own opinions, have often told company managers in private that Samsung's entry into the auto industry was inappropriate, he said.

But Samsung officials say they cannot understand why the government is making a series of remarks against its car project when the group has not even submitted the technology import application yet.

Samsung is trying its best to read the government's mind and to find out whether the recent remarks reflect its true feelings.

If the government's disapproval turns out to be true, the group may nevertheless submit its technology import application to show it has not given up and will try again.

But group moderates say they should get the government's message considering it is the country's biggest business group and therefore must maintain good relations with the government.

Another dilemma for Samsung is whether to announce it is giving up the car project before the government officially registers its disapproval.

Both are painful steps for the group.

If it challenges the government by pressing ahead with its plans, there is room for the group to fight back if the government says no.

If it gives up voluntarily, the pride of the business giant will be hurt but in the long run, it can expect better relations with the government.

Samsung is said to be most worried about its status at home and abroad.

The group has so far put up the invincible image that Samsung can do anything if it only puts its mind to it.

Surrendering its automaking ambitions could also dampen Chairman Yi's reform project as well as hurt the company's pride, which is exactly why Samsung executives are strongly protesting the government's implicit disapproval.

One executive questions the government's stress on raising the country's competitiveness when at the same time it interferes with company activities.

He says the government has no legal grounds to disapprove of Samsung's automaking project.

Government Decision Said Imminent

SK0905071594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0708 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 9 (YONHAP)—The government is expected to announce its official position soon on the Samsung business group's bid to enter the automobile manufacturing business, it was reported Monday.

A senior official at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said that Minister Kim Chol-su is scheduled to leave for Mexico next Sunday and the government is likely to announce its decision on Samsung before he departs.

Another official said that as far as he knows, "This problem has already been decided."

For the sake of formality rather than anything else, he added, the government is holding discussions with Samsung and the Chamber of Commerce in the southern port of Pusan, where Samsung hopes to build car manufacturing plants.

Samsung, one of the country's largest conglomerates, plans to submit for government approval its technology cooperation agreement with Nissan Motor Co. of Japan to produce passenger cars in Korea.

Burma

U.S. Congressman Meets With Aung San Suu Kyi

OW0705114794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 7 May 94

[By Siti Rahil]

[Text] Singapore, May 7 KYODO—In a rare meeting with a U.S. congressman at her home last February, Myanmar's [Burma's] detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said she would never leave her homeland even if the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) releases her.

In a full transcript obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the 48-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate told Congressman Bill Richardson, "they tried to pressure me to leave the country with ways no self- respecting government should employ."

Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for more than four years since July 1989, added, "there was no such move to have a dialogue with me. They only wanted to talk about the terms of my departure from the country."

Richardson had pressed hard for the meeting when he met Myanmar's political and military strongman Khin Nyunt in Yangon [Rangoon] in August.

During the three-hour interview, Richardson said, "I want you to know that in my meeting this morning with Khin Nyunt, I pushed for the unconditional release of you and all political prisoners. I also pushed for a transition to democracy."

He added, "I plan to ask the SLORC to release political prisoners to me. I want to give them a chance to leave Burma with me if they so choose."

Suu Kyi, however, firmly insisted that political dissidents should stay put in Myanmar.

"The only thing I have refused is to discuss leaving the country," she said. "I am needed here. Moreover, the principle of trying to drive someone out of their own country is totally unacceptable."

She also said, "please keep making demands on the (ruling) SLORC. International pressure does have an effect."

On four years of her house arrest, Suu Kyi said, "I do not recognize the legitimacy of the law under which I'm being held—it is totally unjust."

She recounted that when she was first put under house arrest, she was not allowed to even offer food to monks, a deed expected of devout Buddhists.

But, she said, "isolation is not difficult for me. Maybe it's because of my Buddhist upbringing. I have books to read and a radio to listen to."

She sticks to a rigid routine, waking up just before dawn to meditate, exercise and do household chores, and goes to bed before 10 P.M. She keeps in touch with the outside world mainly through the BBC and has read hundreds of books and biographies on politics, philosophy, religion and international affairs.

Regarding her financial situation she said, "I get part of the royalties from my book. They come in foreign currency, which I can change into foreign exchange certificates," she said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES has earlier reported the main points of the interview because its reporter was allowed to accompany Richardson.

Deputy Prime Minister Departs for South Africa

BK0905053094 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burma] delegation led by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, deputy prime minister of the Union of Myanmar Government, left Yangon [Rangoon] for Pretoria by air this evening to attend the swearing in ceremony for the new president of the Republic of South Africa.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon airport by General Maung Aye, vice chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services, and commander in chief of the Army; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, SLORC member and deputy prime minister; SLORC Secretary-2 Lt. Gen. Tin U; Industry Minister-1 Lt. Gen. Sein Aung; Mines Minister Lt. Gen. Kyaw Min; Trade Minister Lt. Gen. Tun Kyi; Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw; responsible personnel; and family members.

The deputy prime minister is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Myanmar Ambassador to Britain U Hla Maung; Foreign Ministry Director U Thein Tun; Major Hla Min from the Ministry of Defense; and Maj. Thaung Kyaing, aide-de-camp to the deputy prime minister.

Thai Education Minister Arrives in Rangoon

Received by Khin Nyunt

BK0605145894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Myanmar [Burma] Education Committee and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, received Thai Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak and his party at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House at 0800 this morning. Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, Education Minister U Pan Aung, and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Wirasak Futrakun were present at the meeting.

Meets With Culture Minister

BK0605152394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Visiting Thai Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak and his delegation called on Lieutenant General Aung Ye Kyaw, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of culture, at the latter's office at the Department of Fine Art in Kanbawza Yeiktha at 1400 this afternoon. They held cordial, frank, and detailed discussions on cultural exchange matters: archaeological research, museums, culture, song, dance, music, cultural education, and the improvement of mutual bilateral efforts in matters concerning libraries.

Received by Education Minister

BK0605164494 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Thai Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak and his delegation called on Education Minister U Pan Aung at the Department of Higher Education on Thaton Road at 1000 this morning. Cordial discussions were held on the exchange of intelligentsia between the two countries and programs for educational cooperation.

The Thai education minister and his delegation visited the National Museum at 1130. In the evening, Education Minister U Pan Aung hosted a dinner in honor of Thai education minister and his delegation at the People's Park Restaurant.

Concludes Visit, Leaves Rangoon

BK0805071994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A delegation on study tour led by Thai Education Minister Mr. Samphan Thongsamak left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening.

The Thai education minister, Dr. Samphan Thongsamak, was seen off at Yangon airport by Education Minister U Pan Aung, deputy education ministers—Colonel Kyi Maung and Dr. Than Nyunt, Deputy Culture Minister U Soe Nyunt, Thai ambassador to Myanmar [Burma], and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Education.

Thai Minister Phothiwihok Begins Official Visit

Calls on Deputy Prime Minister

BK0605144194 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A goodwill delegation led by Mr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister in the Thai Prime Minister's Office, paid a courtesy call on Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and deputy prime minister, at the deputy prime minister's guest hall in the Secretariat Building at 1100 this morning. During the meeting, they held cordial and frank discussions on matters concerning bilateral economic cooperation, energy, and improving and strengthening our relationship.

Meets With Tourism Minister

BK0605160394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister in the Thai Prime Minister's Office, along with his delegation paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General Kyaw Ba, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of hotels and tourism, at the latter's guest room at 1530 this afternoon.

During the meeting, Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok showed great interest by asking questions concerning investment in the Myanmar [Burma] hotel business, the situation with the arrival and departure of tourists, and Myanmar's tourism situation. Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok also said he hopes Myanmar and Thailand will be able to cooperate in tourism in a more friendly manner than at present. Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba said he knew the extent of the success of Thai tourism and added that Myanmar is also making plans to promote tourism. He also expressed his desire for bilateral and mutual cooperation to promote tourism.

Meets With Counterpart

BK0605160894 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister in the Thai Prime Minister's Office, called on Brigadier General Lun Maung, minister in the Prime Minister's Office, at the latter's guest room at 1400 this afternoon. They held cordial and frank discussions on improving and strengthening the bilateral relationship and mutual economic cooperation.

Calls on Energy Minister

BK0605163194 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A delegation led by Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister in the Thai Prime Minister's Office, currently visiting Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Energy Minister U Khin Maung Thein, called on Minister U Khin Maung Thein at the Ministry on Prome Road at 0830 this morning. They held cordial and frank discussions on matters concerning mutual benefit in the energy sector.

Discusses Use of Salween River Water

BK0805134694 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] Thailand has mapped out plans for the use of water from the Salween River as stated in the treaty concerning watershed for international rivers. Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Sawit Phothiwihok and Director General of the Department of Energy Affairs Prathet Sutabut explained the plans to Myanmar [Burma] authorities during their visit to Myanmar.

The Thai delegation has made it clear to the Myanmar side that the treaty made between Thailand and Britain on demarcation line between Thailand and then-Burma stated that both countries have equal claim over water flow in the Salween River. The Thai authorities told their Myanmar counterpart that Thailand's project to divert water from the Salween River to the Phumiphon Dam in Tak Province will be within Thailand's legitimate claim over water use. They have informed the Myanmar side that the Department of Energy Affairs and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand will jointly implement the project which will first take three months to plan as a comprehensive water management plan involving five tributaries of the Salween River. They explained that the oversupply of water in the Salween and its tributaries will only flow out to the sea without benefiting anyone on its (?path).

Ends Visit, Departs Rangoon

BK0905052794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 May 94

[Text] A 16-member Thai delegation led by Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister in the Prime Minister's Office, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. The minister and his delegation were seen off at the Yangon airport by Deputy Energy Minister U Tin Tun and responsible personnel.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Signing of Israeli-PLO Agreement Welcomed

BK0605121194 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Singapore welcomes the signing of the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which paves the way for Palestinian self-rule. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the agreement underscored the commitment [words indistinct] toward a full implementation of the historic declaration of principles. It is a testimony to the vision and courage of the Israeli and PLO leadership. The spokesman said Singapore supports all efforts to secure a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It looks forward to further progress in negotiations between Israel and the PLO and also with Israel's Arab neighbors.

Reactions to Caning Peter Fay Continue

Affect on U.S. Ties Discussed

BK0605113794 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry says it believes that ties between Singapore and the United States are robust enough to weather any difficulties caused by Michael Fay's caning. A Ministry spokesman says he hopes both sides would focus on their larger mutual interests and put this incident behind them. He said the United States and Singapore have always enjoyed the strong relationship based on many common interests and shared strategic objectives. The spokesman said it would be regrettable if the action of one individual who transgressed Singapore law and had been punished according to the law were allowed to affect bilateral relations.

The spokesman was responding to a statement by the acting spokesman for the U.S. State Department, Christine Shell. The statement was issued after a meeting between Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord and Singapore Ambassador S.R. Nathan. The statement noted Mr. Lord said the incident would have to be taken into account in the overall relationship between the U.S. and Singapore.

Case Considered 'Closed'

BK0705143894 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has said as far as the Singapore Government is concerned, the Michael Fay case is closed. Mr. Goh Chok Tong said the decision has been taken, Fay has been caned, the matter will be left behind us. He believed Singapore-U.S. relations are robust enough to withstand whatever action the U.S. may take against Singapore.

Mr. Goh said the reaction of Singaporeans was not unexpected. He noted it was a rebuff attitude because Singaporeans believe in caning as a deterrent. He was responding to questions raised by reporters at the istana [palace] garden party this evening.

U.S. Envoy Asked To Clarify Report

BK0705172894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 7 May 94

[by Mervin Nambiar]

[Text] SINGAPORE, May 7 (AFP)—Singapore Saturday summoned US envoy Ralph Boyce to the foreign office to express displeasure over false reports on American teenager Michael Fay caned here for vandalism, a government spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the government was unhappy over a news agency report quoting Fay's father, George

Fay and his American lawyer, Theodore Simon, as saying that the caning ripped Fay's buttocks and left him in continual pain.

Both men, speaking in the United States, had reportedly quoted US Vice-Consul John Coe who visited Michael Fay on Friday, a day after he received four lashes on his buttocks, in their accounts of the teenager's condition after the beating.

Fay, 18, from Kettering, Ohio, who lives here with his mother and step-father had pleaded guilty to charges of spray-painting cars, pelting them with eggs and keeping stolen road signs. But he later claimed he was innocent.

Boyce, the American Charge d'Affairs here, and Coe, who were both called to the foreign office, were not availabe for comment.

Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Kishore Mahbubani said that the US embassy had the moral obligation to confirm or deny the report.

The ministry thought that the true picture would come out when it allowed Coe to see Fay but instead was "shocked by the tremendous amount of falsification," the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation quoted Mahbubani as saying.

Coe was the only American to see Michael Fay after the caning on Thursday.

Coe did not speak to the press after the prison visit but briefed the teenager's mother, Randay Chan who later denounced the beating as "torture."

Chan said that the consular officer was not able to assess her son's condition because the meeting took place "in a controlled situation" with prison officials present.

Singapore's Prisons Department earlier Saturday called statements attributed to George Fay and Simon "wild allegations and misinformation," adding that Michael Fay walked back to his cell after the caning, saying he "wanted to act like a man."

The spokesman said that the list of "misinformation" attributed to Simon included the claim that blood ran down the teenager's legs during the caning.

He said that while there were a few drops of blood on Fay's buttocks, "blood did not run down his legs" during the caning.

"He sat on a chair shortly after the interview started and remained seated throughout the rest of the interview," the spokesman said. George Fay had reportedly said that his son stood throughout the meeting with Coe

Fay also told Coe to tell his mother "not to worry" and tell his father to "shut up," the spokesman said, adding: "The cane marks are almost dry and clean."

Fay was ordered caned six times, but the Singapore government reduced the sentence to four lashes after President Bill Clinton intervened.

Clinton has called the punishment a "mistake" and the State Department called in Singapore's ambassador to the United States, S.R. @athan, and told him that Washington was disappointed by the affair.

Meanwhile 17-year-old Shiu Chi Ho, a Hong Kong national also convicted of vandalism, spent his first full day in prison Saturday after abandoning plans to take his case to a higher court.

Shiu, sentenced to 12 lashes and eight months jail for spray-painting four cars over two weekends, will write to President Ong for clemency, his father, Shiu Chung On said.

He is not expected to be caned until after the government decides on the petition, lawyers said.

Department Releases Fay's Condition

BK0705123794 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] The Prisons Department says American teenager Michael Fay is in good condition and the cane marks on him are clean and almost dried. Fay was caned four times on Thursday for vandalism.

In a statement today, the Prisons Department said Fay walked back on his own to his cell after the caning, saying that he wanted to act like a man. He shook the caner's hand and smiled when he went back to his cell.

The department gave this account in response to allegations made by Fay's father and lawyer reported by REUTERS News Agency. Both George Fay and the lawyer, Theodore Simon, created an account given to them by a U.S. consular official who visited Michael Fay at Queenstown Remand Prison yesterday.

Mr. Fay was quoted as saying that his son stood throughout the 45 minutes meeting, and an official removed his bandages.

Mr. Simon said that during the caning, blood ran down Fay's legs. He said Fay was in the prison hospital ward. But the Prisons Department said blood did not run down his legs although there were a few drops on his buttocks during the caning.

Fay has also been in his prison cell throughout. He was not bandaged and during the meeting he lifted a dressing [Word indistinct] himself.

Fay told the consular official that although the caning cut his skin, it was not as bad and horrifying as described in the press. He asked the official to tell his mother not to worry that he is fine and would not do stupid things to himself. Fay also asked the official to tell his father to "shut up". He repeated this request towards the end of the meeting during which he was quite cheerful and in good spirits.

The Amercian official, Mr. John Coe, who met Michael Fay yesterday could not be reached for comment.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman also confirmed that the ministry had summoned the U.S. counselor, Mr. Ralph Boyce and consular official Mr. John Coe to express Singapore's displeasure over the false report carried by REUTERS News Agency quoting a U.S. diplomat and U.S. consular official.

Editorial on Caning of U.S. Teenager

BK0605123594 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 6 May 94 p 34

[Editorial: "Fay Case: Note the Disquiet"]

[Text] Based on calls to our offices and a limited street sampling, the gut feeling of a fair number of Singaporeans about the Michael Fay conclusion seems to be regret that reducing the number of caning strokes from six to four was giving in to American pressure, regardless of how the Government explains geopolitical realities. Most people, it is noted, accept the rationale implied in the president's response to the clemency appeal. But the government must acknowledge that this view is liable to gain currency: the United States government wanted nothing less than commutation, which rightly was a non-starter where Singapore was concerned, so why the need to compromise? In wanting to meet President Bill Clinton part of the way, as the government says, it has dismayed a section of Singaporean opinion which holds that the authorities should have stuck it out as it has the commanding heights in moralism and jurisdictional rights. Neither could it mollify Washington and the merchants of hysteria and disinformation in the American liberal establishment, whose campaign against Singapore has been asking that the basis of its penology be scrapped as it does not conform to American values. That said, this was, still, arguably the least controversial approach to a troublesome episode. There are a number of reasons.

The first, which is crucial as it bears directly on the rule of law, is that a legal principle had not been subverted. Fay was sentenced to be caned because he had vandalised property. He received swift justice yesterday. The Americans offended Singaporean sensibilities when they moved heaven and earth to save his skin but Fay was not spared the punishment; reducing the number of strokes fell within the realm of constitutional discretion. This reinforces the message the government has been consistent about since the case broke, which is that the law is inviolate and nationality-blind. Would foreigners please note.

A second factor has to do with balancing domestic political realities with the conduct of foreign relations. Not caning Fay would not just have made a mockery of the law, it would injure the Government's mandate in managing the state. Preserving the integrity of the judicial system, then, is the fount of the moral right to rule. A dogged adherence to this position could, however, expose the government to charges of being not sufficiently mindful of external factors in a world rendered interdependent by trade, security and diplomatic obligations. That is the substance of the government's concession. Much play is made in the official statement of the good relations with the US and of its economic and security contributions to Asia-Pacific stability. To those in favour of giving the Americans some latitude, taking into account the special relations between the two countries, the justification would make more palatable an uncharacteristic pliability. But this would barely pass muster with those Singaporeans who are either incensed by gorilla heaviness of some American media advocates whose chutzpah they see as exceeded only by their ignorance, or view the trade and diplomatic angle as irrelevant to a judicial matter.

In the end, this has been a case of exercising political judgment. Time will tell if the government had acted correctly. For now it would have to take note of the unhappiness expressed by concerned Singaporeans who had backed it fully in taking the hard line, not out of jingoism but on a point of principle. But more troubling is the opening its decision would provide for special interests and foreign governments to intercede on behalf of their nationals in controversial cases in the future, or cases with "media possibilities". The government says this is "an exceptional decision which will not be a precedent for future cases". The commitment is one which Singaporeans will expect it to uphold—come hell or high water.

Group Signs Regional Paging Deal With U.S. Firm

BK0705141694 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 May 94 p 2

[Text] The NTUC [National Trade Union Congress] Voice Cooperative Society has entered into a joint venture with CUE Network Corp. of the U.S. to launch an international paging service in Singapore in about six months' time.

Called CUE SE Asia, the venture has an authorised capital of $1 million [Singapore dollars], said Choo Wee Khiang, chairman of NTUC Voice and an MP for Jalan Besar GRC [Group Representatives Committee], yesterday.

The company will develop the use of FM subcarriers already present with the two frequencies FM 100.3 and FM 91.3 used by NTUC Radio Heart. FM subcarriers are the sidebands that separate various radio frequencies and are largely unused.

Cue SE Asia will make use of FM radio stations around the world that are signed on the CUE network to transmit paging signals internationally.

Subscribers to the service can choose the countries with which they want to be linked. Subscribers can be contacted in North America, Canada, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. Right now, there are about 100,000 subscribers in the U.S. and Canada. Subscriber numbers in Southeast Asia are expected to hit the same figure. Subscription rates have yet to be worked out.

Negotiations are under way with other countries in the region, including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam to be hooked up on the network in one to two years, and NTUC Voice and CUE intend to make Singapore the service hub of the region.

The international paging will work only with pagers developed by CUE. These will be available in the market soon and are expected to retail at U.S. $190, the price at which they are sold in the U.S.

As only Telecom can provide paging services locally until 1997, negotiations are under way for CUE SE Asia to operate the service locally.

In the meantime, a satellite dish will be set up nearby, possibly on Batam, to receive and transmit signals internationally. If talks with Telecom do not come through, the pagers will only be for international messages and not local signals.

Besides the international paging service, CUE SE Asia will offer other telecommunications services, the most significant of which is the differential global positioning satellites or DGPS service.

This uses the same FM sidebands as the international paging service for the transmission of differential correction information. This is useful for work that involves the pinpointing of accurate locations—navigation for instance. Talks are already under way with NTUC Comfort.

DGPS can record the location of a vehicle and broadcast it back to a despatch centre. The equipment required to receive and transmit DGPS is simply a special piece of software that is attached to the CUE pager's docking platform.

Mr. Choo said this use of the FM sidebands makes sound commercial sense.

Cambodia

Foreign Minister Sirivut To Visit European States

BK0905105894 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0400 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] Phnom Penh 9 May (AKP)—Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on 7 May left for an official visit to France at the invitation of French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

"Our visit to France is aimed at renewing the traditional relations of friendship between the two countries," the prince told journalists before his departure at Pochentong Airport where, among others, were present Gildas Lelidec and David Burns, ambassadors of the French Republic and of the United Kingdom to Cambodia.

"After France, our delegation will visit the United Kingdom before going to Germany, Belgium, Sweden, and Denmark," he added.

Reports on King's Proposed Peace Talks Continue

CPP Supports King's Proposal

BK0505151794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 May 94

["Message from the Cambodian People's Party to His Majesty the King"; issued in Phnom Penh on 3 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Respectfully to His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Your Majesty: We, your children in the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], would like to beg permission to express our support for Your Majesty's clear-sighted idea on an unconditional, immediate, complete, and static cease-fire as a step toward achieving national reconciliation, ending the war of bloodshed, and bringing peace and security to the Cambodian motherland and people.

For the cause of the Cambodian nation, motherland, and people, we will always follow Your Majesty's lofty idea.

Please, Your Majesty, accept our loftiest salutations.

Please forgive any impropriaties.

[Signed] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 3 May

Government Blamed for Failure

BK0605041994 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 May 94

[Station commentary: "Who Is Opposing the King's National Reconciliation Policy and Further Inflaming the Vietnamese War of Aggression?"]

[Text] King Norodom Sihanouk has proposed a roundtable meeting since early 1993, after the injudicious elections organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] concluded. The aim of this is to reconcile the nation and put an end to the Vietnamese war of aggression, thereby restoring peace, independence, national unity, and territorial integrity.

Democratic Kampuchea and the entire Cambodian nation and people have supported the king's initiative and have undertaken all kinds of activities to speed up the call for the roundtable meeting with a view to quickly ending the sufferings of our nation and people. Nonetheless, the communist Vietnamese puppets and the two-headed government, abiding by the advice of the communist Vietnamese and their alliance, have persistently opposed the king's initiative. At this present time they are continuing their opposition to the roundtable. They have impudently said that reconciliation with the Khmer Rouge must be brought about by guns and that the Khmer Rouge should be smashed to pieces.

[Words indistinct] the communist Vietnamese puppets and two- headed government were very busy buying armaments, ammunition, tanks, and cannons for the purpose of launching offensive attacks on Democratic Kampuchea and the Cambodian people. They launched an audacious attack on Stoung and Phnum Chhat in August 1993. Afterward, they attacked Anlung Veng and Pailin in the most brutal and barbarous manner. During their attacks, they indiscriminately massacred our people. They also plundered and completely destroyed houses, property, and farms that had taken our people several years to build in difficult conditions. Hundreds of thousands of people, with their children, run away from their houses and villages to escape from the criminal activities of those bandits. The two-headed government, the communist Vietnamese, and the alliance, which is their master, declared that those criminal activities were their great victories. They claimed they had destroyed the Khmer Rouge at this or that area and had occupied and captured this or that Khmer Rouge position, and so on.

The aforementioned events have been given very wide coverage both nationally and internationally. It is the communist Vietnamese puppets, the two-headed government, the communist Vietnamese, and their alliance which have opposed the king's national reconciliation plan and further inflamed the Vietnamese war of aggression. At present, our Cambodian people are denouncing them and jointly attacking them everywhere. This is to force them to accept the king's five-point national reconciliation plan.

Sihanouk Clarifies 'Solutions' to Fighting

BK0905064094 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0355 GMT 9 May 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh 9 May (AKP)—His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, on 7 May made a clarification on the two solutions he had proposed to put an end to the civil war in Cambodia. Following is the text of the clarification:

"Yesterday, 6 May, I said among other things that one of the following two solutions might be brought to the tragic problem of the very harmful civil war between the Cambodian Royal Army [CRA] and the NADK [National Army of Democratic Kampuchea]—the Khmer Rouge:

Solution A: New elections with the participation of the PDK [Party of Democratic Kampuchea] as a political party—following a total and lasting cease-fire, with "standstill".

At the end of these elections—which I, Norodom Sihanouk, would be responsible for organizing and supervising—the PDK would probably win seats within our National Assembly, besides the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the CPP [Cambodian People's Party], the BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party], and so on. The PDK would thereby be reintegrated into the national community within the framework of our pluralist liberal democracy.

Solution B: The PDK transfers to the government all its "autonomous" zones and dissolves the NADK.

The government and National Assembly modify a small part of our present Constitution to allow "acceptable" PDK personalities to join the government and royal administration while "acceptable" NADK elements are integrated into the Army.

"Of course, there is no question of me imposing either solution on the government and National Assembly. These are merely "ideas" to be considered or not by either warring party."

King Urges KR To Take Part in New Election

BK0605133694 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 6 May 94

[Address by King Norodom Sihanouk at the opening of the third national congress of Buddhist monks held in Phnom Penh on 6 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today, I should dare to make the following arbitration.

They [Khmer Rouge] [KR] must now stop fighting. Since they have claimed to be the people's representatives, they should not be afraid of the election. If they dare to take part in a democratic election, I dare to ask Samdech Ranariddh, Samdech Hun Sen, Samdech Chea Sim, and Samdech Son Sann to agree to a new election. The pevious election was claimed to be incorrectly held because it was organized by the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], by the foreigners. They said that. Now, we propose that a new election be held with Sihanouk overseeing it. [applause]. Sihanouk will supervise it. I would like to take this occasion to inform venerable monks of this message. That is, Sihanouk will supervise and rearrange (?with his neutral attitude) an election. They should be happy with all the seats that they will get. Supposing that they can get 50 seats, they will be able to control a large portion of the power. Fifty seats will be a large portion. If they get 70 seats, they will be very strong. If they get 80 seats, they will be able to do anything they like. Therefore, they should agree.

Speaking before the venerable monks at this third congress of Buddhist monks, we are not joking. Let us hold another election since they said the previous one was organized by the foreigners, the UNTAC. Now, it will be held by Sihanouk whom they recognize as their king. They have not yet rejected Sihanouk. They said they only reject Samdech Ranariddh, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, and Samdech Chea Sim. They do not reject Sihanouk. Now, Sihanouk is willing, (?at this age), to chair, to organize it. Sihanouk will go to all provinces to see that the election is held correctly. Whoever will win or lose, we will control the power in line with the laws and Constitution. [Words indistinct] they must have heard about this now because they have informants. They always hear about everything we say. They are very smart. They have informants. They always hear about everything at once.

Now, I would like to make this appeal that venerable monks have also expressed their welcome just now. Now, if Samdechs Ranariddh, Hun Sen, and Chea Sim have the spirit of sportsmanship, of a so-called [preceding word in French] sportsman, they should agree if the Khmer Rouge [KR] stop fighting. Everyone should observe a standstill wherever he is. They should be anywhere they are and stop oppressing, stop killing the others.

We should play the game correctly. We should play the sport correctly. That is, we should play the game of genuine democracy by holding the election, the general election in all provinces. We should hold the election again (?with all parties taking part). [passage omitted]

On this occasion, they should think whether to agree, to accept a reelection or they accept my other formula that they should return all of their autonomus regions and then dissolve their army, not 100 percent, [changes thought] to integrate it into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] like the armies of H.E. Son Sann, H.E. Sak Sutsakhan, Samdech Ranariddh, and Samdech Hun Sen which are now KRAF, and then they themselves join the Royal Government to share the power. However, some have said that the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independence, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] or the Cambodian People's Party disagreed. They said that it would be against the Constitution for them to join the government. Even if the constitution is amended, we can still refuse to accept them. In the Sangkum Reas Niyum, not only those elected party members were made ministers. The outsiders, such as experts, were appointed ministers. The Constitution in that era did not prohibit this. That was done to achieve peace, to eliminate the impasse, the autonomous state.

If the Khmer Rouge agree to negotiate with this side, if this side kindly agrees to accept them into the government, there will certainly be a way out. There will be a way out, but we have continued to say no. Not only saying no and refusing to allow them to join the government, but we have even (?rejected) them through legal means by drafting a law declaring the Khmer Rouge as the outlaws. By so doing, they will become even more cruel.

At present, can we prevent them from entering the villages and communes that belong to the FUNCINPEC and to the front of H.E. Sak Sutsakhan to slash the throats of women there; can we protect our people? Since we cannot protect our people, we should agree to form a coalition with the Khmer Rouge. It does not mean that we must agree with it unconditionally. We will agree to do so only when the Khmer Rouge stop fighting, stop killing, and stop having an army. They should intergrate their army into the KRAF so that there will be only one army. Our government will be a government of peace and national reconciliation by including them in it. With that statement, I was accused of desiring to help the Khmer Rouge. It is not that I want to help the Khmer Rouge. I would not dare to lie before the venerable monks here. Samdech Sihanouk only wants peace for the nation. That is all. [passsage omitted]

Now there are these two options. Should we hold another election, or should we refrain from the reelection and turn to reconciliation by accepting the Khmer Rouge in the government and their army in the KRAF? But will they agree with it? If they disagree, national history (?will punish them). As for us, we must now calculate what is right or wrong so that if children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren suffer any loss of life again, we will know clearly who are the wrongdoers. [passage omitted]

King Proposes Amending Constitution

BK0705150894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of Cambodia, has said that the Khmer Rouge should surrender to the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] the regions they control, dissolve all their armed forces, and join the RGC and the Khmer Royal Armed Forces through an amendment of the Constitution. This is a solution. Another is the reorganization of elections.

His Majesty stated this in his 7 May clarification letter. The king added that the two solutions are just his own suggestions and that he has not asked the government or the National Assembly to adopt or implement them.

Indonesia

Foreign Minister Alatas Comments on East Timor

Notes 'Progress' in Timor Talks

BK0705094394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has praised the Indonesian Government for giving UN officials, human rights activists, officials of humanitarian organizations, and journalists access to East Timor. His views were disclosed by his spokesperson Theresa Christophe during the fourth round of Indonesian-Portuguese talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

Speaking at a news conference after the talks, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesia and Portugal have made much progress in their efforts to create mutual trust. He said Indonesia has done many things to accelerate the settlement of the East Timor issue; for example, East Timorese have been allowed to see relatives in Portugal and Portuguese activists have been permitted to visit the former colony.

Interviewed on Geneva Talks

LD0705223894 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 2050 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is reasonably satisfied with the outcome of the talks he held in Geneva with Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso on the future of East Timor. In an exclusive interview with Rui Araujo, Ali Alatas talks about progress but does not stop at criticizing Portugal and particularly the adoption of the so-called confidence building measures.

[Begin recording] [Rui Araujo] Are you happy with the results of the meeting?

[Alatas, in English with superimposed Portuguese translation] Reasonably happy because, we, again, made some progress in identifying and agreeing on some confidence building measures.

[Rui Araujo] Some will argue that the talks, until now, have achieved little if anything substantive.

[Alatas] No, it is true that we have not reached the substantive part of the talks yet, as was earlier agreed upon among the three sides [Portugal, UN and Indonesia]. We first tried to create a better atmosphere, a propitious atmosphere, before we go into the substance because we know that the two positions, the two basic positions are very far apart. So we have made progress with these confidence building measures. It was slow, not as fast as I would have liked, but we are making progress. You should see it from that point of view, rather that from the point of view of substance that we have not reached yet.

[Rui Araujo] Are you optimistic about that issue?

[Alatas] I would say I am reasonably satisfied with the pace of the talks.

[Rui Araujo] You have accused Portugal of failing to act quickly to establish confidence building measures. What kind of measures were you expecting from Portugal?

[Alatas] Just as a few illustrations, perhaps: when we started talking about confidence building measures at the beginning, we could not agree at all on any one of them and, if my recollection is correct, we agreed immediately at the first meeting already on something like exclusion of journalists, exclusion of personalities, etc. It took two meetings before Portugal came around to accept it. There were other things that were already proposed by the secretary- general from the very beginning, such as interest sections. You have heard about this proposal that we would not open diplomatic relations because that may be too early perhaps for Portugal, but interest sections, two officers, two diplomatic officers of Portugal in the Netherlands and two Indonesian officers in the Thai embassy or the Malaysian embassy in Portugal. They would quietly work there, they would be a channel of communications.

In the case of the Portuguese diplomats, they can occasionally go to East Timor, report on what they themselves see rather than rely solely on the press. These are some of the good confidence building measures.

[Araujo] Do you feel Portugal is changing now?

[Alatas] I see no indication yet on that. [end recording]

Restrictions on Commercial Loans Maintained

BK0605151094 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 22 Apr 94 p 9

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—Minister of Finance Mari'e Muhammad said here yesterday that the government will continue to restrict the inflow of offshore commercial loans to avoid worsening the country's debt-service ratio.

The private sector should minimize the domestic financial sources to finance their investment projects, the minister said, adding that the private sector should avoid using offshore loans despite their growing role in the country's development efforts.

"The strict control of offshore borrowing is essential, not only to maintain the level of the balance of payments at a comfortable level, but also to reduce the debt burden, the minister said at a seminar on strategic financing sources.

Bank Indonesia [Central Bank] Governor J. Sudrajad Jiwandono, president of the state-owned Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI) [Indonesian State Bank], Winarto Sumarto and chairman of Merril Lynch Limited for the

Asia and Pacific Region, Peter Clarke, were among the speakers at the seminar held by the EDITOR weekly magazine.

Mar'ie promised to further address the country's non-bank financial sources to enable the private sector to benefit from the government's massive infrastructure projects in the 1994-1999 sixth Five-year Development Plan (Repelita VI) period.

The capital market should be further developed to give the private sector better alternatives for raising investment funds, he said.

Indonesia should invest at least Rp [Rupiah] 660 trillion (US$314 billion) to sustain economic growth in the current five year development plan. The private sector is expected to contribute around 37 percent of that figure.

The Central Bank governor shared the finance minister's view on the need of the private sector to enter the capital market to obtain investment funds.

"I think the capital market is the best financing alternative at present," Sudrajad said, adding that domestic banks are also a good financing alternative, but the available funds in the banks are not sufficient to meet the huge investment demand.

He said the private sector should use local financial sources, as raising commercial loans from overseas will still be restricted in order to reduce the country's debt burden.

Sudrajad said the country's debt-service ratio is expected to decline to 20 percent by the end of the Repelita VI period in 1999 from around 32 percent at present.

He said the government will also continue to improve the investment climate to further attract foreign investments. "Foreign direct investment is one of important financial alternatives for development in the next five years," he said.

In another development, the finance minister dismissed reports of a rush to buy dollars [US] based on rumors of the government's plan to devalue the rupiah. [Passage omitted covered by referent item]

* Minister on Need for More Privatization

94SE0107B Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 22 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (ANGKATAN BERSENJATA)—Ginandjar Kartasasmita, minister of state for national planning and development/chairman of BAPPENAS [National Development Planning Board], said that, to overcome shortages of funds and to improve efficiency, the Indonesian Government will expand privatization in various sectors in the next REPELITA [Five-Year Development Plan].

In reply to a question from World Bank President Louis T. Preston in a meeting at the BAPPENAS office yesterday, Ginandjar said that privatization efforts in Indonesia need to be expanded in various sectors. The objective is not only greater efficiency but also to overcome the government's ever worsening shortages of development funds.

According to Ginandjar, privatization has started in the electricity sector. In the future, privatization will be expanded to a number of other sectors including the communications (toll roads, railroads, and ports) and infrastructure sectors (telecommunications and drinking water).

Ginandjar acknowledged that development funds will be more limited in the future. The private sector's role in infrastructural projects, therefore, will be expanded, particularly in East Indonesia.

A matter more important than privatization is efficiency issue, Ginandjar continued. Efficiency can be achieved by promoting competition among private sector managers and companies as well as among state-owned enterprises.

Ministers

In his meeting with the World Bank president and his deputy, Gautam S. Kaji, BAPPENAS Chairman Ginandjar Kartasasmita was accompanied by ministers who handle development of infrastructure and human resources, namely Minister of Education and Culture Wardiman Djojonegoro; Minister of Tourism, Post, and Telecommunications Joop Ave; Minister of Communications Haryanto Dhanutirto; Minister of Public Works Radinal Moochtar; and Minister of Health Sujudi.

Ginandjar told reporters that the meeting was absolutely not for discussion of the size of the loan to be given by the World Bank in the next fiscal year but was merely for a dialogue on the expansion of Indonesian development.

According to Ginandjar, loan assistance from the World Bank for fiscal 1994-95 in the framework of the CGI will not be discussed until after the Indonesian Government has finished drafting its funding priorities for development projects for that fiscal year.

Ginandjar said the Indonesian Government will continue to take advantage of opportunities for loan assistance from Bank Indonesia [as published] as well as from other international financial institutions. He denied that such loan assistance will reduce government efforts to achieve national self-sufficiency.

"Self-sufficiency absolutely does not mean that we will then not want to accept loan assistance. If low-interest loan assistance is available, why should we not take advantage of it?" Ginandjar said to reporters. The World Bank provided loan assistance totaling $1.6 billion in the CGI framework in 1993-94.

Laos

U.S. Humanitarian Aid To Arrive 10 May

BK0505120794 Vientiane KPL in English 0943 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Vientiane, May 5 (KPL)—On May 10, 1994 at airport, a U.S. airlift of humanitarian supplies will be handed over to Lao officials and representatives of the World Vision for distribution in the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], according to a USIS press release issued here yesterday. The equipment will be presented by U.S. Ambassador to the Lao PDR Victor L. Tomseth

The medical supplies are donated by the World Vision Relief and Development for its operations in Laos. The school equipment is a donation from the U.S. Military. The International Lao-American Organization donated the books.

This shipment is another example of assistance supplied from the United States to meet the humanitarian needs of the Lao people.

Defense Minister Departs for PRC, DPRK

BK0605083694 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 May, the delegation of the National Defense Ministry headed by Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister, left for a friendship visit to the PRC at the invitation of Gen. Chi Haotian, state councilor and national defense minister of the PRC, from 5 to 8 May, During its stay in the PRC, the delegation of the National Defense Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] will exchange views and experience with the delegation of the PRC National Defense Ministry on the basis of strengthening the long-standing traditional relations of friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples and Armed Forces. At the same time, the delegation will also visit a number of Army- and civilian-operated modern industrial establishments in the PRC.

After concluding its visit to the PRC, the delegation of the LPDR National Defense Ministry will pay a friendship visit to the DPRK from 9 to 14 May at the invitation of the DPRK national defense minister.

A sending-off ceremony for the delegation was held at the National Defense Ministry in Vientiane. Attending the ceremony were Lt. Gen. Siphon Phalikhan, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the Army General Political Department; Lt. Gen. Ai Souli-gnaseng, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the Army General Staff Department; Li Jiazhong, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos; Chang Yong-chun, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos; and a number of senior military officers.

Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

BK0705090794 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 May 94

[Text] A news conference was held in the Ministry of Information and Culture [name of ministry as heard] conference room with the participation of deputy ministers from the ministry and local reporters from many news services.

At the news conference, Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat briefed the participants on the rapidly changing world and regional situations. He also discussed the domestic situation in Laos and other issues; namely, the direction and implementation of tasks in the restructuring period. He pointed out that cadres and people must correctly follow the party's policies; hold aloft the spirit of patriotism; and cherish fine Lao customs, arts, and culture. He stressed that all mass media services and information cadres must take the initiative in carrying out activities in earnest to enable the multiethnic Lao people to understand clearly, appreciate, have confidence in party leadership, and engage in activities in various forms to fulfill the aims of restructuring. At the same time, the minister also discussed the foreign policy pursued by the party and government toward countries in this region and throughout the world, stressing that the Lao People's Democratic Republic consistently adheres to the policy of strengthening relations of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance with all countries in the world.

Trade Fair With Thai Cooperation Opens 4 May

BK0505114394 Vientiane KPL in English 0945 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Vientiane, May 5 (KPL)—A Lao-Thai goods exhibition opened in Vientiane yesterday morning. A large number of dignitaries attended the ceremony.

Among the dignitaries were Minister Phao Bounnaphon, head of the Prime Minister's Office, Trade Minister Sompadit Volasan, and Thai Ambassador Somphan Kokilanon. Members of diplomatic corps and international organisations to Laos were also invited to the opening.

Sisouk Sisombat, president of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, addressed the opening ceremony. He said that this goods exhibition was held under the cooperation between the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Thai Embassy in Vientiane. He pointed out that the objectives of the event were to contribute toward increasingly growing trade and cultural relations between Laos and Thailand, introduce the quality goods to consumers, give an opportunity to traders, businessmen from both countries to meet and exchange views on expanding their cooperation, and for the people of the two countries to have a cultural exchange.

There are 20 show rooms for Lao goods, and 30 show rooms for Thai goods. The Lao exhibits include handicraft items, textiles, jewelry, silver wares, carvings, sculptures, souvenirs, rattan-made furniture, wood products, and garments. The Thai show rooms display farm tools, sports equipment, medical equipment, musical instruments, educational aids, decorations, gifts, and others. All the goods show rooms will be kept open to the public till May 8.

Philippines

Senator: Spratlys Threat to National Security

BK0605085694 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Spratly Islands issue remains a threat to the country's security. This was the assessment made by Senator Orlando Mercado, chairman of the Senate Committee on Defense, and Arturo Enrile, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

However, they expressed the hope that the prevailing tension would be solved by moves undertaken by the countries claiming the Spratlys. They added that the talks for a joint development of the Spratlys would help to prevent the dispute ending in violent confrontation.

[Begin recording in progress, in English] [Mercado] ...and the world, really, as a consequence of the demise of the Cold War. But, it is also an accepted notion that Spratlys or Kalayaan Island Group is a potential problem.

[Enrile] ...flashpoint is Spratlys which is (?unabated) because I think everybody has agreed anyway that you know diplomacy is still the best way to solve international disputes. There is really no conflict there right now, but just to anticipate any conflict. [end recording]

Five Politburo CPP-NPA-NDF Members Arrested

BK0505081994 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Five top leaders of CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front] fell into the hands of the military authorities of Bulacan PNP [Philippine National Police] Command, Recom [Regional Command] III Intelligence and PNP Intelligence Command, after they were arrested on their way to a meeting in Barangay [village] Santiago, Malolos, Bulacan.

Those arrested were identified as Wilma Austria-Tiamzon alias Comrade Rhea, Eugenia Magbantay-Kabaso and her sister Caridad Magbantay-Pascual alias Caring, Luisito de la Cruz alias Ted or Janus and Gerry Rato: all ranking members of executive committee or the Politburo of Central Luzon Regional Party Committee of CPP-NPA-NDF. The five are presently under the custody of Bulacan PNP headquarters and are scheduled to be brought to Camp Crame at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

New Socialist Group Challenges Exiled CPP Leader

BK0605115494 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 4 May 94 p 8

[Text] A new "mass socialist organization" yesterday dared exiled Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] founder Jose Maria Sison [Joma] to issue arrest orders to its leaders and its 10,000 members.

In a statement, the Mapagpalayang Kilusan ng mga Anak Bayan [Liberal Movement of Children of the Nation] (Makabayan) said that since they share the same views and principles espoused by the CPP's "breakaway" faction, they are probably guilty of the same "crime" Felimon Lagman, alias Carlos Forte, allegedly committed against Sison.

Sison reportedly issued an order for Lagman's arrest and trial in a revolutionary people's court where evidence against him will be presented.

Makabayan described Sison as a "madman from Utrecht" who is a "terminal case of revolutionary insanity."

The group called on Joma to cease and desist from his "kind of deadly game."

"You have lost your sense of principles and revolutionary morals... And you have lost and bungled the revolution you yourself started twenty-five years ago," Makabayan said.

The Bukluran ng mga Manggagawa Para sa Pagbabago [Union of Workers for a Change] (BMP), meanwhile, criticized Sison for "dragging legitimate people organizations like the BMP and Sanlakas [Sandigan ng Kalayaan at Demokrasya ng Sambayanan—Foundation of Freedom and Democracy of the People]... into their planned bloody purges."

The BMP defended Tony Cabardo whom they said "has done nothing but work for the success of people's struggles."

Cabardo, the BMP said, worked for the P [pesos] 35 workers' wage campaign last year and the Kilusang [Movement] Rollback against oil price increase.

Breakaway Leader Faces Military Assassination

BK0605121994 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 May 94 pp 1, 13

[Text] Breakaway communist leader Felimon Lagman faces assassination from the military and anti-communist agents for a bungled anti-communist plan last year, self-exiled communist founder Jose Ma. Sison said yesterday.

In a statement sent from his base in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Sison said Lagman need not worry about being executed by former comrades in the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] because agents of the military and anti-communist forces are likely to get to him first and blame the New People's Army [NPA] for his death.

According to Sison, he has information that Lagman, former chief of the Manila-Rizal Committee of the CPP, was part of a plan hatched in December last year to form a national coordinating board for an anti-communist "united front."

Lagman, however, backed out of the plan and "torpedoed" it, earning the ire of the military and anti-communist forces who had designed the plan, Sison said.

"In my opinion, Lagman has more to fear from the military and his fellow contras. They are capable of eliminating him and then holding the New People's Army responsible," said Sison.

Sison also belittled a warning by Lagman that should there be a communist arrest order for him, his men will kill Sison in Utrecht.

"I should thank Lagman for unwittingly confirming the assassination plot designed by the military and such renegades as Arturo Tabara, Romulo Kintanar, and Antonio Cabardo," said Sison.

"I now laugh it (death threat) off because since the first time he (Lagman) had made the threat, precautionary measures have been adopted on my part," he added.

The Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU), an underground labor organization, said there is yet no order for the arrest of Lagman, although charges will be filed against him before so-called people's court.

The RCTU also said in a statement that the so-called split in the communist movement is nothing but a "breakaway of some elements hostile to the ongoing rectification movement led by the CPP."

"The media hype and distortions about the revolutionary underground is unduly creating an atmosphere of animosity that could endanger the lives of comrades," the statement said.

The RCTU also clarified that the CPP never issued any hit list for the summary executions of breakaway rebel leaders Lagman, Kintanar, Tabara, and Ricardo Reyes.

"There are no such hit lists, only charges that have still to be duly processed in the revolutionary courts," the group said.

According to Sison, Lagman faces possible death in the hands of the NPA only if he resists arrest and "continues to be armed and dangerous."

Sison also said Lagman should not fear trial by a people's court because his former comrades assure him of due process.

Lagman, in a telephone interview with INQUIRER dared former comrades to "come and get me."

He said if any armed partisan tried to arrest him, he and his men will retaliate against Sison in Utrecht.

"We will not retaliate against Sison's men here. We will hit the head itself in Utrecht," said Lagman.

Drillers Find Oil, Gas Traces in Mindoro

BK0905103894 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 May 94 pp 17, 18

[By Katherine Espina]

[Text] Prospects of finding oil and gas in Mindoro have brightened as oil and gas readings were recorded over the weekend, the Department of Energy (DOE) said yesterday.

Energy Undersecretary Rufino Bomasang said in the drilling bulletin released yesterday that Anderman Smith Philippines Inc., operator of the Cambayan well in onshore Mindoro, encountered gas readings of propane at various intervals while drilling.

Bomasang said the U.S.-based Anderman Smith has drilled the Cambayan-1 well to a depth of 6,285 feet. The operator will continue drilling this week. It is targeting to reach a depth of 8,000 feet.

Anderman Smith is slated to drill two wells in Mindoro within the year requiring some $2 million in investment. The second well will be drilled right after the first well.

Anderman Smith's partners in the exploration of the Cambayan area in Mindoro are the PNOC [Philippine National Oil Company] Exploration Corp., The Philodrill Corp., Basic Petroleum and Minerals Corp., Terra Grande Resources and Exploration Inc., Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp., and Anglo-Philippines Oil and Mining Corp.

Still on oil exploration, Bomasang said the Australian oil firm Ampolex Ltd. spudded the Villaba-1 well in offshore Leyte last 1 May. Its drill ship, the "Ocean Clipper," has drilled to a depth of 1,723 feet. Ampolex is scheduled to drill to a depth of 6,234 feet.

At the same time, the French Government through Trans Energy has signed an agreement with the Energy Department of conduct a technical and feasibility study for the setting up of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Luzon. [sentence as published]

Bomasang said the project will not entail any cost on the part of the government.

Trans Energy according to Bomasang, will also provide a gas market profile for Luzon. He said that it was the

French Government that broached the idea of undertaking such a feasibility study.

The French company has started a preliminary survey among economic planners, policy makers, and different agencies involved in power generation to assess the technical and economic feasibility of setting up an LNG tanker facility.

The DOE is planning to tap natural gas as a source of energy by the turn of the century especially with the ongoing exploration at the Camago-Malampaya field in northwest Palawan.

Shell Philippine Exploration and Occidental Petroleum are currently drilling a well at Camago-Malampaya to confirm reserves of some two to five trillion cubic feet of gas.

Thailand

Chuan Rules Out Extradition of Accused MP

BK0705100794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 May 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday ruled out the extradition of Chat Thai Party MP Thanong Siriprichapong to the United States to face charges of drug trafficking. Chuan said Thailand would prosecute its own citizens and would not extradite them to face charges in foreign countries.

The US Embassy in Bangkok announced on Wednesday that on January 12, 1993, it requested the Thai government to serve legal notice on Thanong that he was the subject of assets forfeiture proceedings before the US District Court in northern California.

"By principles, we will not extradite Thais to be prosecuted overseas," Chuan said. "Extradition will be made only against foreigners who commit wrongdoings abroad and try to hide out in our country. (The United States) may request us to extradite (Thanong) but we will not do it. No matter what wrongdoing he might have committed, it is Thai officials' responsibility to prosecute him."

Thanong, a Nakhon Phanom MP, is accused by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) of having conspired to smuggle more than 45 tons of marijuana into the United States between 1977 and 1987. The US Embassy said the drug deals earned Thanong more than $10 million.

Chuan said yesterday he had ordered Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to find out the full details of the charges.

The prime minister said the authorities were required to follow up the case and find out whether the opposition MP had committed crimes as charged.

Chuan said the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) might have been pursuing the case but did not yet have enough evidence to take legal action against Thanong.

"It is difficult to take action against someone if there isn't enough evidence," Chuan said.

Prasong met Chuan at Government House at 11.25 am yesterday.

Emerging from the meeting, Prasong told reporters he had briefed the prime minister over Thanong's case.

Prasong said the US government had so far not requested that Bangkok extradite Thanong. He said the DEA only wanted the government to inform Thanong about the seizure of his assets in the US.

Thanong had the right to choose whether or not to appear before the US court.

National Security Council Secretary-General Charan Kunlawanit said police would find out more information about the alleged drug trade.

Police Director General Pratin Santipraphop said police were monitoring the case but could not take any action because there were no evidence against Thanong. Pratin said police had yet to get evidence against Thanong from the United States.

Meanwhile, Charan Phakdithanakun, secretary-general of the Judicial Affairs Division of the Justice Ministry, said yesterday the Thai-US extradition treaty does not oblige Bangkok to extradite Thai citizens at US requests. He said the treaty would normally apply to foreign criminals who escaped to Thailand.

In case of Thanong, Charan said the Thai authorities could take action against him if the alleged drug smuggling took place after September 27, 1991, the day a new Thai narcotics suppression law went into effect.

Accused MP Denies Drug Charges

BK0705095494 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 94 p 1

[Text] Chat Thai MP Thanong Siriprichaphong, accused by U.S. antinarcotics authorities of marijuana smuggling, says he is prepared to fly to the United States if necessary to defend himself. After keeping a low profile for a few days, Mr. Thanong resurfaced in Parliament to deny all the charges at a press conference. He offered to resign over drug dealing charges only if these damaged his party and supporters and threatened to sue the press for publicising the accusations lodged against him by the U.S..

Nicknamed "Po Pet," the MP for Nakhon Phanom strongly dismissed the marijuana trafficking allegations made against him by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Mr. Thanong told almost 100 reporters and photographers he was ready to clear himself of the allegations and said he had never been contacted by the DEA. Nor was he served with an affidavit from the agency.

The MP said such accusations were damaging but he was "gentleman enough" not to accuse anyone else. Asked how he felt at being accused of having been involved in the trafficking of 47 tons of marijuana, he said: "Just one gramme of marijuana would hurt me enough."

He said he would have his lawyer fly to the U.S. to hear the claims and, if necessary, he would be prepared to defend himself in the U.S..

"I'd rather go and hear the charges myself but they advised I send my lawyer first," he said. He has a life-long visa to enter the U.S..

The DEA has accused Mr. Thanong of involvement in the smuggling of 47 tons of marijuana from Thailand to the U.S. in the past 10 years and reported that his house in Los Angeles and a Mercedes Benz worth about 30 million Baht in all had been sequestrated. But Mr. Thanong claimed he had no business in the U.S. and did not own a house in California as alleged. The MP said he had owned a car in the U.S. but sold it.

"I didn't own the house or any other assets in the U.S. as reported," he said. He said he had consulted his constituents in Nakhon Phanom and Chat Thai Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha and they all advised against his resigning as an MP.

The MP said he needed no parliamentary immunity from arrest on such charges and would resign without hesitation only if there was any serious damage to the House, Chat Thai and Nakhon Phanom people.

"If the (Chat Thai) party tells me to make a decision, I'll resign no matter whether or not I was guilty."

As for whether the drug charges were a political game, Mr. Thanong said he was "too gentlemanly to comment". "I hate to mention any third person unnecessarily. That's another point. I may be seen positively or negatively. But I am what I am."

Opposition figures, including Chat Thai Deputy Leader Thawit Klinprathum, have claimed the Thanong issue is a political ploy to discredit Chat Thai by digging up drug claims made against Mr. Thanong last year.

Mr. Thanong said he would be ready to testify before the House Committee for Parliamentary Affairs on Tuesday as asked by its chairman. He declined to say if he had any serious conflict with anyone just before the issue was publicised. He said everyone would naturally have some people on their side.

The MP said he would consult his lawyer as to whether he could sue newspapers, radio and TV stations which reported the claims.

"I think I'm going to take legal action against newspapers, radio and TV. Many times I have been hit by newspapers. I'm definitely going to sue if I can."

A few times during the conference Mr. Thanong was sarcastic. Asked if he believed the drug issue was part of a political game, he declined to give a direct answer but said only: "I'm not a reporter." He said the Thai press could jump to conclusions on anything more clearly than the police.

"Don't make me act like the Thai press which can make all kinds of judgements," he said.

House Speaker Marut Bunnak said Mr. Thanong should be questioned over the claims in Thailand rather than in the U.S.. Mr. Marut said the U.S. should take steps under Thailand's Drugs Suppression and Prevention Bill and international agreements. Mr. Thanong would not be ousted as an MP just because of the claims, he said.

Council Rules Against U.S.-Owned Insurance Firm

BK0605145994 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 94 pp 17, 26

[By Walailak Kiratiphiphatphong and Peter Mitri Ungphakon]

[Excerpt] The Juridical Council has ruled that Universal Insurance Co, a non-life insurance member of the American International Group, is a foreign company and is thus prohibited from maintaining branches under the 1992 insurance law.

The ruling amounts to only a legal opinion given to the Government and can be challenged in court. It is a rejection of the claim by the US Government that Universal Insurance (known in Thai as Phaisan) is a Thai company that happens to be 99.84 percent owned by Americans.

US Ambassador David Lambertson has repeatedly argued in meetings with Thai ministers that Universal Insurance should be allowed to operate branches. More recently, he has also argued that if Universal is indeed an American concern, then it should be exempt from the restrictions of the 1992 law under special rights granted to Americans through the 1966 Thai-US Amity Treaty.

A US official said yesterday the embassy understood from discussions with ministers during the period when the law was being drafted that it would allow rights granted to Americans before the law was enacted to be maintained.

The official said that since the embassy had yet to receive the report, there was no official American response. He pointed out, however, that the Government need not abide by the council's interpretation of the law.

The council made the determination last month but only notified the Commerce Ministry on Wednesday. It would appear to terminate the company's plan in seeking approval from the ministry to upgrade its 11 representative offices as branches unless the Americans decide to test the ruling in court.

According to secretary-general Watthana Ratanawichit, about 70 legal experts of the council in a meeting last month decided that Universal Insurance was an American company because 99.84 percent of its shares are owned by the American International Group, which includes the largest life insurance company in Thailand, American International Assurance (AIA).

The council's experts also ruled that Universal was not protected by the 1966 treaty because the 1992 law supersedes the special rights granted to Americans under that treaty. The law requires insurance companies to have foreign shareholdings of no more than 25 percent if they are to be considered Thai with the full rights enjoyed by Thai companies.

They reasoned that the treaty's status was inferior to the 1992 law because Parliament's legislation should reign supreme.

The Americans have argued that Universal should be treated as a Thai concern because it was set up under full Thai ownership and registered as Thai before it was later taken over by the American International Group (AIG).

Local insurance companies, maintained Mr Watthana, are regulated and controlled by the Life Insurance Law and the Non-Life Insurance Law of 1967—amended in 1992 with the ministerial regulations setting out the maximum foreign shareholding permitted.

The report received by Sanit Worapanya, acting permanent secretary for Commerce, said that if the Government allowed such cases to be protected under one treaty which conflicts with domestic law, it would infringe on the country's sovereignty.

Mr Watthana said the only way for the treaty to sustain legality would be for the treaty to have been enacted by Parliament at the same time as the law.

He said the decision made over the case was final and the council would not review the case—even if requested by the ministry. He also predicted that the firm would have only a slim chance of victory in court because 70 legal experts of the country have reached a unanimous opinion. [passage omitted]

Minister on Liberalization of Service Industry

BK0605090494 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] In compliance with the GATT agreement, Thailand will not promulgate new laws or regulations to discriminate against foreign nationals in the service industry. Minister of Finance Tharin Nimmanhemin said that it is a basic commitment among member countries signing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Minister Tharin said that liberalization of service industry is different from other businesses. He said it involves licenses issued for businesses. He said the Thai Government plans to allow aliens to enjoy the same rights as Thai nationals in doing business in Thailand. He said the Finance Ministry will allow over five licensees of the Bangkok International Bank Facilities, or BIBF, to transform into commercial banks by 1997.

Burmese Government Releases 31 Thai Citizens

BK0605125894 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Burmese Government handed over 31 Thai citizens who had been imprisoned in Burma to Thai representatives in Kawthaung at 0900 today. Among the Thai representatives who received the Thai citizens were the 1st Army Region deputy commander; a representative of the 4th Army Region commander; the Ranong governor; representatives of the Fisheries Department; the chief of the Office for Protection of the Interests of Thai Citizens Abroad under the office of the Foreign Ministry permanent secretary; and officials from other relevant government agencies.

The release of the 31 Thai citizens was the result of the talks Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri held with Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, during his April visit to Burma. He asked the Burmese side to reduce the sentences or grant pardons to Thai citizens imprisoned in Burma. On 27 April, at the closing ceremony of the Ninth Thai-Burmese Joint Border Commission meeting, the chief of the Burmese delegation announced that Burma had decided to release 31 Thai citizens held in Burma after taking into account the good relations between Thailand and Burma and the success of the meeting.

Extradition Sought for 2 Bombing Suspects

BK0705103294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 94 p 1

[Text] Two more suspects are wanted in connection with a spate of bombing attacks in the South and Thailand is seeking their extradition as they have been hiding in a foreign country, Deputy Interior Minister Chamni Sakdiset said yesterday. Mr. Chamni did not name the suspects or the country.

He said Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre director Wisut Singkachonworakun told Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday that police were gathering evidence against the two in order to seek their extradition. However, a source in the South named them as Domae or Romae Bron and Mada-o or Ro-seng Krongpinang and said they had been hiding in Malaysia.

Four Islamic teachers in Songkhla's Chana District were arrested on Wednesday and charged with taking part in eight different bomb attacks from May 1991 to March 1994, rebellion and premeditated murder.

Gen. Chawalit said yesterday he had ordered police handling the case against the four and the Songkhla governor to ensure fair treatment of the suspects. A number of southern New Aspiration Party MPs met him yesterday and expressed concern over the case he said.

Gen. Chawalit said he told the MPs that the four would be regarded as innocent and subject to proper treatment. It would not be right for authorities not to allow their relatives to visit them or have them handcuffed. The case must be dealt with as quickly as possible to prevent further problems.

The minister believes there will be no protests over the arrest. The chairman of the Association of Islamic Schools yesterday warned authorities concerned to be careful in their handling of the case against the four teachers.

Nidir Waba said if the charges against the suspects were proved groundless, problems would follow. He said the arrest of the four had affected the image of Ponoh schools—private schools teaching Islam—in the South.

Dr. Ismael Ali, director of the Islamic College of the Prince of Songkla University, said the arrest of the four was intended to discredit private schools teaching Islam and their teachers. He said he knew the four well because they were his juniors while he was studying in Saudi Arabia.

"All of them are good men. I doubt the possibility of their having committed such serious crimes," he said. The four suspects are Sa-ali or Ali or Sali Hamanapden, Mut or Hamase or Mut Loman, Suroma or Daman Leduwi and Ya or Kaya or Sakariya Hamanapden. Muk Sulaiman, a New Aspiration Party MP for Pattani, said Gen Chawalit was not happy about the arrest.

He said he personally believed that incidents in the South were a result of dissatisfaction with Police Chief Gen. Pratin Santipraphop. The arrest of the four might lead to a protest, Mr. Muk said. He would be a defence lawyer for the four.

Ahseed Phithakkhumphon, chairman of the Islamic Committee of Songkhla, yesterday went to meet Songkhla Governor Yuwat Wuthimethi and asked to know the facts behind the arrests. Mr. Ahseed said people of Chana District felt hurt by what happened to the four and were about to protest when they first heard about it but he asked them to stay calm. He said Islamic leaders were still shocked by the arrest which was quite unexpected. He said: "I can speak on behalf of fellow Muslim people that we would not protect wrongdoers. Wrongdoers must be dealt with according to the law. But what just happened was unexpected."

Protests Feared Following Arrests

BK0605065394 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 94 p 1

[Text] Police in southern border provinces have been ordered to keep a close watch on Muslims and to stop them from gathering in Hat Yai to protest the arrest on Wednesday of four Muslim teachers suspected of involvement in eight different bomb attacks between May 1991 and March 1994.

Police in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat were ordered to try to stop people gathering in either Chana District or Hat Yai town. A checkpoint will be set up at Don Yang intersection in Pattani's Nong Chik District and at an adjoining area in Narathiwat and Pattani Provinces.

Police fear Muslims will come to Hat Yai in their thousands today to see off relatives leaving for Mecca on the annual pilgrimage and take the opportunity to stage a protest. This will make it difficult for police to differentiate between protesters and relatives.

The four suspects, all Islamic teachers in Chana District, were arrested in Chana District on Wednesday. They are Sa-ali or Ali or Sali Hamanapden, Mut or Hamase or Mut Loman, Suroma or Daman Leduwi, and Ya or Kaya or Sakariya Hamanapden. The four have been charged with premeditated murder, rebellion and possessing ammunition illegally in addition to the bombing charges.

Region 9 Police chief Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Michai Nukunkit said police had acquired sufficient evidence to believe the four and 20 others still at large took part in eight different bomb attacks as follows:
—An explosion at a bridge in Bacho District of Narathiwat Province on May 13, 1991;
—A bomb attack on a train in Chana District of Songkhla Province on May 25, 1992;
—A bomb explosion at Hat Yai Railway Station in Songkhla Province on August 13, 1992, killing three people and wounding 75 others
—A bomb attack on a marine police boat in Pattani Province on December 6, 1993;
—An explosion at Dechanuchit Bridge in Pattani on December 25, 1993;
—A bomb attack on a train in Songkhla's Chana District on March 8, 1994;
—An explosion in front of a bookstore in Hat Yai on March 20, 1994, and
—An explosion on the rail track in Na Mom Sub-district in Songkhla Province on March 30, 1994.

Pol Lt. Gen. Michai claimed the four and their colleagues were part of an organization with links to a foreign country. The evidence against them was strong enough for police to be certain they are not scapegoats, he said. He alleged the group had also worked together with the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) with the objective of overthrowing the Government.

Pol Lt. Gen. Michai does not believe the group is responsible for torching 36 southern schools on August 1 last year. Police will continue to gather more evidence to nail the suspects, he added.

Police Director General Prathn Santipraphop said in Bangkok the four were certainly not "scapegoats" as police had acquired hard evidence against them. Arrests of "scapegoats" might have been widespread in the past, but not this time, he said.

Songkhla Governor Yuwat Wuthimathi said the strong evidence meant the four suspects would face legal action despite being Islamic teachers. The four, who studied religion abroad, will be held for further legal processing in Songkhla. They will not be granted bail until questioning is finalised. said Mr. Yuwat.

Asit Phithakkhumphon, chairman of the Islamic Committee of Songkhla, said the people of Chana District did not believe the four suspects were guilty as charged. They said it was not possible for the four to have conducted such serious crimes, he said.

Fourth Army Region Commander Lt. Gen. Kitti Rattanachaya said he did not believe there would be an uprising over the arrest of the four Islamic teachers because all wrongdoers must face legal action. He said he had not received a detailed report of the arrest but believed the police must have sufficient evidence to take such action.

Rewat Ratchamukda, chairman of the Islamic Committee of Narathiwat, said the arrest had sparked unrest among Muslim people. Never before have Islamic teachers been suspected of involvement in sabotage and there are doubts surrounding the arrest of the four, he said. Mr. Rewat said he hoped authorities would provide the suspects with due justice. He asked fellow Muslims to cooperate with authorities to prevent possible interference by a "third hand" in causing further divisiveness in the country.

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